

The Daang Region of Rajasthan: Status of Development, Problems & Suggestions



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Abstract

The State of Rajasthan, an abode of Rajput rulers, is located in the north western part of the Indian subcontinent. It is the largest state of India in terms of area and has more physical variations than any other state. From the Geographical point of view, the basic physical features of Geography of Rajasthan is that it is enveloped by the plains of Ganga and Yamuna in the East, Plateau of Malwa in the south and plains of Satluj & Vyas Rivers in the north & north-west.

The Daang region covers a wide geographical area. Known for the criminal activities of the people, the region is dacoity affected, and hence inaccessible to most of the people. Farming and mining being the main occupations in the region, the people earn their livelihood through them. The worst thing about the region is that at the point of time when the whole world is on the path of being globalized with no territorial and other limits between the nations of the world, the Daang region is detached from the main stream of the state and nation. No government scheme is proving itself successful in removing the darkness of ignorance from the life of the Daang people. They are still conventional in their modes of living, criminal in their activities, conservative in their approach and unprepared to make innovations.

The paper is a secondary data content analysis based study mixed with the personal observations and perceptions of the researchers. The information was received from the various sources of the secondary data. The paper not only reflects the contemporary scenario of the Daang region in Rajasthan, but also extends certain valuable suggestions that can help the policy makers. The findings reveal that the Daang region of Rajasthan essentially needs to be developed in the interest of the development of the region at large

Keywords: Daang, Region, Status, Development, Amenities, Irrigation, Schemes.

Introduction

Rajasthan is a state in northern India. The state covers an area of 342,239 square kilometres (132,139 sq mi) or 10.4 percent of the total geographical area of India. The Length of Rajasthan State from North to South is 826 KM and the width from East to West is 869 KM. The difference in length and width of Rajasthan is 43 KM. The length of diagonal from North-West to South-East is 850 KM while length of diagonal from South-East to North-East is 784 KM. The shape of Rajasthan State is Kite / Isosceles Quadrilateral / Rhombus. It is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population. Rajasthan is located on the northwestern side of India, where it comprises most of the wide and inhospitable Thar Desert (also known as the "Rajasthan Desert" and "Great Indian Desert") and shares a border with the Pakistani provinces of Punjab to the northwest and Sindh to the west, along the Sutlej-Indus river valley. Rajasthan is the largest state of India. Rajasthan covers a territory which has a very mature topography, developed during thousands of years of denudation and erosional process. The Aravalli, one of the oldest mountain range, passes through the middle of Rajasthan. It divides the Rajasthan into two natural divisions. Western part of the Aravalli, which covers the two-third part of the Rajasthan, is the Western Sandy Plain, while southern & eastern division of Aravalli has extensive hill ranges, beckoning valleys, dense forests and fertile plains. The state is divided into the following regions-

1. Ahirwa

2. Bagar tract
3. Dhundhar
4. Gorwar
5. Hadoti
6. Marwar or Mewar or Mewat
7. Shekhawati
8. Vagad

The Aravalli Range and the lands to the east and southeast of the range are generally more fertile and better watered. This region is home to the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion, with tropical dry broadleaf forests that include teak, *Acacia*, and other trees. The hilly Vagad region, home to the cities of Dungarpur and Banswara lies in southernmost Rajasthan, on the border with Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. With the exception of Mount Abu, Vagad is the wettest region in Rajasthan, and the most heavily forested. North of Vagad lies the Mewar region, home to the cities of Udaipur and Chittaurgarh. The Hadoti region lies to the southeast, on the border with Madhya Pradesh. North of Hadoti and Mewar lies the Dhundhar region, home to the state capital of Jaipur. Mewat, the easternmost region of

Rajasthan, borders Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Eastern and southeastern Rajasthan is drained by the Banas and Chambal rivers, tributaries of the Ganges.

The Daang Region: Territorial Perspective

The Daang region comprises 22 panchayat samitis of Baran, Bundi, Kota, Jhalawar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Dholpur and Bharatpur districts. The BJP Government in Rajasthan sanctioned 293 crore rupees for the restructure of the Daang and Mewat regions of Rajasthan. The Daang region falling in the eastern and south eastern districts of Rajasthan is a dacoity affected region, and is too backward from the socio-economic and amenities point of view. In terms of the parameters of development it is a backward region. Under various schemes, efforts have often been made for the development of the region, but the region fails to get a proper budget and funding required for its development in accordance with the specific problems and needs. In pursuance of making the required development in the dacoity affected region and providing additional opportunities of job in the region, at present the Daang Regional Development Scheme is in existence.

The Daang Region of Rajasthan: District Wise Scenario

| Sl. No. | District | Panchayat Samiti | No. of Villages |
|---------|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Bharatpur | 1. Roopwas 2. Bayana | 20 37 |
| 2 | Baran | 1. Anta 2. Kishanganj 3. Shahbad 4. Chhabda 5. Chhipabdod 6. Ataru | 46 103 146 111 101 58 |
| 3 | Bundi | 1. K Patan | 95 |
| 4 | Dholpur | 1. Dholpur 2. Rajakhera 3. Bari 4. Baseri | 81 123 87 134 |
| 5 | Jhalawar | 1. Manoharthana 2. Bakani | 154 180 |
| 6 | Kota | 1. Itawa 2. Sultanpur | 71 81 |
| 7 | Karauli | 1. Karauli 2. Sapotara 3. Hindaun | 211 238 29 |
| 8 | Sawai Madhopur | 1. Khandar 2. Gangapur City | 80 20 |
| Total | | 22 | 2206 |

Status of Development in the Various Fields Standard of Living

The standard of living in the people cannot be said to be moderate as most of the people living in the region are from hand to mouth, that is, living below poverty line. Their low economic status forces them to live in Kachcha huts and Dhandis, to be cut off from the stream of education and even the basis amenities.

Occupation & Employment

The main occupation of the people in the Daang Region is agriculture, but the specific climatic

conditions in the region keep the people from having good crops. The rain is low and uncertain; the major part of the land is barren; conventional means of agriculture and irrigation are in use. It makes the occupational structure in the region rigid and difficult. Lack of job and employment opportunities force the people to earn their living going out of way.

Standard of Education

Despite the education awareness campaigns, schools with the running of the various schemes like the Mid Day Meal, Scholarship, Free

Education etc. the standard of education in the region is not good and needs much improvement.

Availability of the Basic Amenities

The Daang region of Rajasthan is suffering from the lack of basic amenities. Because of being remote, it fails to have proper supply of water and

electricity. The region is unapproachable. The people live at the scattered points in the region. The people in the region are still forced to live in dark, to bring water from the distant wells and to walk on the unpaved and unconstructed roads.

Major Governemnt Schemes Meant for The Development of The Nation Including The Daang Region

| Scheme | Date of Launch | Sector | Objective |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|--|
| Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna | Sep 25, 2014 | Rural Development | DDU-GKY is a Government of India youth employment scheme. It was launched with the aim to "Transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce". |
| Swachh Bharat Abhiyan | Oct 2, 2014 | Cleanliness Drive | Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign was launched in India with the aim to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas. |
| Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana | Oct 11, 2014 | Rural Development | Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana is a rural development programme to focus on the development in the villages which includes social development, cultural development and to spread motivation among the people. |
| Mission Indradhanush | Dec 25, 2014 | Health | The purpose of Mission Indradhanush scheme is to ensure full immunisation of all children in India. |
| Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme | Jan 15, 2015 | Social Welfare | This social campaign was launched with the aim to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls. |
| Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (Girl Child Prosperity Scheme) | Jan 22, 2015 | Saving Scheme | Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is a small deposit scheme of the Government of India for a girl child. This scheme was launched as a part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Campaign. |
| Soil Health Card Scheme | Feb 17, 2015 | Agriculture | The purpose of the scheme is to help farmers by giving them Soil Cards which will carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilisers so that they can increase productivity through judicious use of inputs. |
| Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana | Apr 8, 2015 | Financial Support | Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana is a loan scheme to support small scale business and to promote entrepreneurship among people. |
| Atal Pension Yojana | May 9, 2015 | Pension | APY is a government-backed pension scheme in India targeted at the unorganised sector. |
| Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana | May 9, 2015 | Insurance | PMJJBY is a government-backed Life insurance scheme in India available to people between 18 and 55 years of age with bank accounts. |
| Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana | May 9, 2015 | Insurance | PMSBY is a government-backed accident insurance scheme available to people between 18 and 70 years of age with bank accounts. It has an annual premium of ₹12. |
| AMRUT | Jun 25, 2015 | Urban Development | AMRUT was launched with the aim of providing basic civic amenities like water supply, sewerage, urban transport and parks so as to improve the quality of life. |
| Smart Cities Mission | Jun 25, 2015 | Urban Development | It is an urban renewal and retrofitting program by the Government of India with a mission to develop 100 cities to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life. |
| Digital India Programme | Jul 1, 2015 | Digitally Empowered Nation | Digital India campaign was launched to digitally empower the country in the field of technology. |
| Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) | Jul 1, 2015 | Generic Medicine | This campaign was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India, to provide quality medicines, generic drugs at affordable prices to the masses. |
| Pradhan Mantri | Jul 15, | Skill Development | PMKVY scheme is to provide quality training to the |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|---|---|
| Kaushal Vikas Yojana (Skill India) | 2015 | | people to increase working efficiency of probable and existing daily wage earners. |
| National Career Service (India) (NCS) | Jul 20, 2015 | Employment | NCS is a portal and a common platform that facilitates registration of job seekers, job providers, skill providers, career counsellors, etc. |
| Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana | Jul 25, 2015 | Rural Area Electrification | This scheme was launched to provide continuous power supply to the entire rural India. |
| Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana | Aug 28, 2015 | Financial Inclusion | The purpose of this scheme is to ensure access to financial services, such as Banking Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner. |
| Standup India | Apr 5, 2016 | Loans to SC/ST/Women entrepreneurs for greenfield enterprises | Stand-Up India Scheme was launched to support entrepreneurship among women and SC & ST communities of the country. |
| Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana | May 1, 2016 | LPG Connection | Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a social welfare scheme aimed at providing LPG connections to BPL households in the country. |
| UDAN Scheme | Apr 27, 2017 | Regional Flying | UDAN project is aimed at making domestic air travel affordable and widespread with regional airport development and "Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)". |

Source- My India, Published on: May 13, 2016 | Updated on: November 6, 2018

Major Problems Being Faced in The Daang Region

At present the people dwelling in the Daang region are facing the following problems-

Traditional Occupation

The people dwelling in the Daang region in Rajasthan are utterly cut off from the main stream of development. Their occupational structure is all traditional. They rely more in mining, farming and animal husbandry than in the jobs undertaken by the members of the non-Daang region.

Lack of Employment Opportunities

The Daang region of Rajasthan is so rich in its natural resources. Several valuable minerals and stone are available there in plenty, still it fails to provide employment and job opportunities to its inhabitants. Failing to link themselves with employment, they are forced to live in poverty adopting criminal modes of living.

Low Level of Education

Literacy is the key to all the successful endeavours, but in the Daang Region of Rajasthan, even in the twenty first century when the discussions on globalization are at peak, illiteracy prevails there keeping the members of the Daang region away from the concept of globalization, and confining them to their narrow world where there seems nothing but narrowness of mentality and attitude.

Lack of Skillness

The Daang region suffers horribly from the unskilledness of the people because they fail to practice the things they are fit and competent for. Like all the individuals in the world, they too have some skill that needs to be used and utilized. They are like the flowers in the desert that enjoy their own fragrance and fail to let others enjoy it. The people need to develop their skillness in the interest of the state and nation.

Health Related Problems

In the Daang region of Rajasthan, the government fails to ensure public health despite its several health schemes meant for the remote areas. The mortality rate in the Daang region of Rajasthan is almost more or than the same as before. The people fail to get even the first aid facilities when there is any severe attack of any disease. They fail to get the Ambulance facility. As a result, many of the patients die. Tuberculosis and silicosis are common diseases among the Daang dwellers. These diseases are the result of their working in the mines under the unhealthy conditions.

Lack of Cottage & Other Industries

It is noticeably shocking that inspite of being rich in natural resources, the industrial growth in the Daang region is almost Zero. There are possibilities of the growth of cottage and other small industries, but the government has failed to introduce any successful plan to develop such industries in the region.

Lack of Basic Amenities

The Daang region lacks the basic amenities required for the successful and smooth survival of the people. The hardships of life in the daang region of Rajasthan include barren and uncultivable land, uneven land, scattered housing, unapproachability etc. There are no constructed roads, no electricity facility in most of the houses and no water supply facility. The people are still forced to draw water from the low water leveled wells at distant places.

Away From The Means Of Communication

In the age of communication revolution, the Daang region of Rajasthan is unable to link itself properly and sufficiently to the communication through the adoption of the prevailing advanced means of communication like television, internet, mobile etc. As a result they are unable to know what is happening around them in the world.

Inaccessibility to Modernization

The process of modernization has changed the picture of Rajasthan. In every field, there can be seen the effect of modernization. The people of Rajasthan are ready to give up their age long traditions, heritage culture and conventional modes of behavior and working for the sake of joining the modernity. However, the Daang region is still away from the impact of modernization. The region needs to be modernized for the sake of agricultural, social, cultural and economic development. The use of modern means of agriculture and irrigation, linking with education and literacy, and means of communication can bring the region closer to the main stream of the nation.

Lack of Awareness

The worst problem being faced in the Daang region is the lack of awareness among the people. Probably there is no proper campaigning of the awareness of the programmes in the region. Being unaware they keep themselves confined to their narrow world where they are born and brought up, and where they breathe their last.

Objectives of the Study

1. To concentrate on the location and status of Rajasthan in India
2. To focus the Daang Region in Rajasthan
3. To point out the socio-cultural, economic and educational features of the Daang Region in Rajasthan
4. To be familiar with the geographical features of the Daang Region in Rajasthan
5. To locate the districts in Rajasthan known for the Daang Region
6. To enlist the Panchayat Samities and the number of villages that fall in the Daang Area of Rajasthan
7. To study the causes of the backwardness of the Daang Region in Rajasthan
8. To explore the results of the backwardness of the Daang Region in Rajasthan
9. To learn about the schemes meant for the development in the Daang Region in Rajasthan
10. To interpret the current status and scenario of the Daang Region in Rajasthan

Review of Literature

RR Prasad in his book Pastoral Nomadism in Arid Zones of India: Socio-demographic & Ecological Aspects wrote that the south and south-eastern borders of Rajasthan state are the regions which harbor large tracts of forest lands, and are known to the pastoralists as the Daang. Characteristic features of this tract include forest cover, irregular topography, including ravines and bad lands, minor hill ranges, rivulets and streams, combined with the relative absence of habitation and cultivation.

Nandini Sundar (June 4, 2007) in Rights for forgotten tribes, Reality one Bite at a time wrote that amidst the claims and counter-claims of Gujjars and Meenas, the machinations of the Government and the brutality of the Police... those who did not take to the streets to press or challenge a claim to reservation for the simple reason that official

affirmative action policies have failed to benefit them in any substantive way.

Panwar, Preeti (2015) in the study All you need to know about Digital India programme: Explained observes that digital India programme aims to ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically and people get benefited from the latest information and communication technology.

Radha Mohan Singh (2016) in a public meeting said that initiatives taken by the Central Government for the welfare of farmers have started showing positive results. Shri Singh said that agriculture scientists are working hard to improve the conditions of farming and farmers in the country. He further added that countless people have been already saved from starvation through the use of sophisticated agricultural techniques. The scientists of NRRI, Cuttack have developed CR Paddy 310 for the first time in the world which contains 11% protein while other species of rice generally contain protein only 6-7%.

RT Admin (2017) under the head Mewat Aur Daang Kshetra ke Vikas par 293 Crore Kharch Karegi Rajasthan Sarkar observes that Rajasthan Government is committed to the development of the Mewat and Daang region. For it the Government has formed the Daang Development Board which implements the schemes prepared by it meant for the development. The Daang region is too backward in the socio-cultural, economic and basic amenities.

Rakesh Singhal (July 31, 2018) in his report entitled in Hindi 'Daang Vikas Board Adhyaksh Bedham ne Kiya Vikas Karyon ka Lokarpan' says that according to the Chairman Mr. Jawahar Singh Bedham, there is no paucity of budget for the development of the Daang region. The CM's directions are that the facilities and opportunities like the ones in the other areas should be provided here. For it he appealed the representatives, officers and public to work with a team spirit.

Debu C (November 6, 2018) under the head Top Schemes Launched by Modi Government produces a list of 26 valuable schemes introduced and implemented for the development of India including all its states and all the regions therein.

Hypothesis

1. Rajasthan is the state which is popular all over the world for its heritage-culture and traditions
2. The state has its specific historical, geographical, geological and tribal features
3. The state has a wide Daang Region which encompasses more than 2000 villages falling in its various districts
4. The Daang Region is a dacoity affected area where the inhabitants lead a risky and uncertain life
5. Agriculture is the main occupation in the Daang Region
6. The Daang Region in Rajasthan is incredibly rich in the natural resources
7. The Daang Region in Rajasthan has reservoirs of minerals that need to be exploited for the development of the region

8. The Region is lagging behind in education, public health and prosperity
9. Lack of education and job opportunities in the region forces the people to develop criminality in them
10. The State Government is committed to its development
11. The State Government has introduced several schemes for the planned change in the region
12. Much is still to be done for the complete development in the Region

Methodology

Rooted in the personal observation, casual discussions and interactions, reading of the published reports in the various newspapers, articles, magazines etc. the paper is chiefly a secondary data content analysis based study for which the researchers collected data from the various traditional sources of research. However, their own observations and perceptions and knowledge about the Daang Region and the people associated with it equally find room in the paper. For the study, the methodology includes the following steps- Selection of the problem to be studied, a serious and focused brooding over the problem, searching for the various helpful sources of the information relating to the Daang Region in Rajasthan, making study of the related literature found scattered in the articles, newspaper reports, magazines etc, having casual discussions and interaction on the issue with the people, compiling the information, putting the collected stuff together in an article form focusing the conclusion and findings in a way that the current status and scenario of the Daang Region in the state of Rajasthan is revealed.

Key-Findings, Conclusion & Suggestions

1. There is an utmost need to enhance and develop the industrial sector for the sake of its economic betterment and prosperity
2. Skillness needs to be explored and improved through training in certain skills that can help the inhabitants be financially self depend
3. Modernized agriculture needs to be introduced in the Daang region in order to make soil better and fertile in a way that there is a constant increase in the production
4. Since the Daang region is facing the problem of irrigation as a result of scarcity of water, there is an utmost need to generate and develop the

sources of water so that the inhabitants can get drinking water in plenty as well as the ample water for irrigation

5. In order to ensure the public health in the Daang region, community health centres should be there at a distance of every two or three kilometers so that the people can get first aid in case of emergency. Besides, the ambulance facility should be within the reach of the people dwelling in the Daang region
6. The lack of the basic amenities in the Daang region cause several diseases to the people dwelling in the Daang region. Therefore, there should be a special focus on the providing of and increase in the amenities so that the normal and healthy living of the people in the region can be ensured
7. In the Daang area, because of the lack of job opportunities and agricultural problems, most of the manpower is wasted. Therefore, opportunities should be generated so that the available manpower of the Daang area is used at the maximum level
8. The Daang area is rich in natural and mineral resources, but it is noticed that most of them are ignored. Hence, the Government should introduce such schemes that can ensure the best and maximum utilization of such resources.

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