

## Water supply in Marathwada Region: AN OVERVIEW

Ms.M.P.Kulkarni\*, Mr.A.Bhore\*\*, Ms.S.Kannawar\*\*\*

\*(Department of Civil Engineering, DBATU, Nanded)

\*\* (Department of Civil Engineering, DBATU, Nanded)

\*\*\* (Department of Civil Engineering, DBATU, Nanded)

### ABSTRACT

Water is an indispensable part of human existence. Despite the continuous efforts by various governments more than 12 billion people do not have proper access to pure drinking water and hygienic sanitation is unavailable for more than 3.1 billion people across the globe, especially the developing nations such as India, China, South Africa, Venezuela, Cuba, etc. are being affected at an alarming rate. In developing country like India, there are many arid regions like Marathwada region in state of Maharashtra. This is semi-urban and mostly rural area of Maharashtra, which is having main catchment of Godavari River. Still many districts from the region are facing scarcity of water during hot weather especially. Rural water supply systems play a vital role in the evaluation of the prevailing systems as the major share of the population in the developing countries dwell in rural areas. Life expectancy and mortality rate of a country are majorly dependent on its water supply and sanitation system. This paper gives an overview of the existing water supply and in Marathwada highlighting the burning issues and major challenges faced by the region today.

**Keywords:** Drinking water, Water Demand, Water supply, Population.

Date of Submission: 14-05-2023

Date of acceptance: 26-05-2023

### I. Introduction

Water covers over 70% of the surface of the globe. Inferring that just 2% of this water is fresh, the seas make up 98% of it. Due to the presence of polar ice caps and glaciers, 1.6% of this fresh water is rendered inaccessible. Furthermore, only 0.36% of the total is made up of groundwater. Therefore, only 0.036% of the water is usable for direct consumption in lakes and rivers. The human race uses this meager amount of water for a variety of uses, including domestic, industrial, commercial, agricultural, public, etc. [Wikipedia 2022]. Water supply is the process of moving water efficiently from the point of production to the point of consumption. A water delivery system that ensures a consistent, reliable, safe, and regular supply of water is effective. The water that is given must maintain the required level and quality. Consequently, a good water supply system should be able to do the following: it should be able to meet all necessary demands, including those for domestic, industrial, and commercial use, public use, etc.; it should maintain an adequate pressure under continuous consumption; it should convey treated water up to consumers with a prescribed degree of purity; it should also be able to supply the necessary amount of water for emergencies, such as firefighting; and

it should be dependable and secure. Poor water resource management is the other side. Well-managed water resource is essential because of its complexity and connections to other natural elements. To meet these competing needs, water resources management tries to maximize the available natural water flows, including surface water and groundwater.

The groundwater level in the Marathwada region had dramatically dropped during four decades of unrelenting "water mining" due to poor management of water resources, making its rejuvenation challenging. The water table had alarmingly fallen in 70 of the 76 talukas of Marathwada, according to statistics from the Groundwater Surveys and Development Agency, with more than 25 reporting a decrease of more than two meters. The shift in crop patterns to one that is not compatible with the agro-climatic features of this region is one of the main causes of the water issue. Cereal and oilseeds were once the primary crops grown here. These plants not only thrived in the dry environment of Marathwada, but also facilitated moisture harvesting and drought resistance. But today, soybean and Bt cotton are the main crops grown here, occupying more than 80% of Marathwada's arable land. These crops, together with the promise of quick money from sugarcane, have brought farmers and city dwellers

dangerously close to the current hydrological catastrophe. The situation is also caused by the water being diverted to the industries and sugar factories. Marathwada's sugar mills were despite the growing water issue, functioning. A little more than 2,000 gallons of water are needed to manufacture 1 kilograms of sugar. Additionally, the State made no notable efforts to cut off half of the water supply to the industries. Additionally, there hasn't been a significant effort made to collect water or top off the groundwater table. The majority of population in India, dwell in rural areas, hence the development of the water supply and sanitation facilities in these areas had to be given maximum consideration. According to the 1990 census, only 55.54% population had access to an improved water source. This further improved to 74.39% of fully covered and 14.64% partially covered rural habitation. [Government of India planning Commission 2007].

Marathwada is a region in the Indian state of Maharashtra. The region coincides with the Aurangabad Division of Maharashtra. It borders the states of Karnataka and Telangana, and it lies to the west of the Vidarbha region and east of the Khandesh region of Maharashtra. Aurangabad is the largest city of Marathwada. The Marathwada region straddles 64,500 km<sup>2</sup> and has eight main sub-districts. It has a population of 19.26 million, of whom 5.39 million are in urban areas, subdivided into corporations (COs) and municipal councils (MCs). In all, there are 4 municipal corporations, 51 municipal councils and 20 panchayats in Marathwada. Its rural population is organised into panchayats (village councils) and some 12,920 villages are recorded in the taluka-wise data received by MJP. The total rural population at present (2018) is 13.89 million. The population projection for Marathwada for 2050 is about 35.5 million, of which some 12 million will be located in urban areas. This rural-urban shift is common not only to Marathwada, but to all of India as well. A stressed agriculture sector and rising unemployment in the rural areas are encouraging more and more migration to the urban centres. The major cities are Aurangabad, Nanded, Latur and Parbhani. Marathwada suffers from a highly erratic rainfall during the monsoon season, though this rainfall accounts for almost 80% of the annual rainfall.

## 1. CASE STUDY

In the current research, we have examined Marathwada's urban and rural population projections. And consequently, how much will be needed in terms of quantity for various requests in the following year. Additionally, we are talking

about the Godavari River, a perennial river that flows through Marathwada. Despite this, Marathwada is rapidly turning arid. We have collected forecasted population data with required water demand for upcoming years in Marathwada and also considered various demands in the same.

**Table1.Decadal urbanandruralpopulationincreases1981-2011**

Year	1981	1991	2001	2011
UrbanPop	1,978,281	3,042,564	4,140,433	5,072,074
RuralPop	7,750,501	9,919,559	11,488,815	13,659,798
Urban/rural(%)	26%	31%	36%	37%
Urban/total(%)	20%	23%	26%	27%
Rural/total(%)	80%	77%	74%	73%
Total Pop	9,728,782	12,962,123	15,629,248	18,731,872

**Table2.Urbanandruralpopulationprojectionsfordecades2020-2050**

	2020	2030	2040	2050
UrbanPop	6,235,933	7,787,787	9,712,180	12,062,224
RuralPop	15,310,988	17,548,418	20,250,393	23,485,454
Urban/rural(%)	41%	44%	48%	51%
Urban/total(%)	29 %	31%	32%	34%
Rural/total(%)	71%	69 %	68 %	66 %
Total Pop	21,546,921	25,336,205	29,962,573	35,547,678

**Table3.Industrialwaterdemandfor2018andprojectionsfor2050(MLD)**

	2018	2050
MLD	203	305

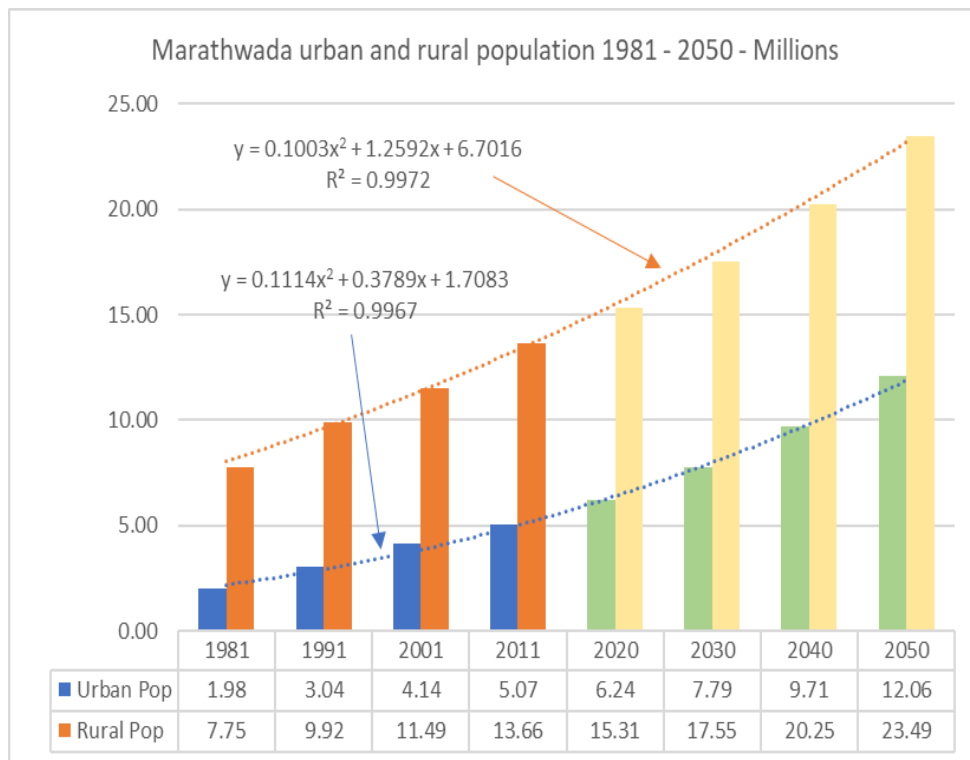
Source:MarathwadaIndustrialDevelopmentCorporation(MIDC)

**Table4.Marathwadaindustrialwaterdemandprojections**

Year	2020	2030	2040	2050
Mm3	62	68	76	91

Source:datafor2018and2050receivedfromMarathwadaIndustrialDevelopmentCorporation(MIDC)

**Graph1.Marathwada Urban and Rural Population**



**1.1Agriculturesectorwaterdemandprojections**

The agriculture sector is the biggest water consumer in the Marathwada region. Data received from the agriculture department helped calculate the sector's water requirements (Appendices 8-13). The irrigation department estimates that due to the prevailing water scarcity, only 15%-25% of the potentially irrigable area in Marathwada is being irrigated through irrigation canal systems. From the integrated state water plan for the

Godavari Basin in Maharashtra Volume 1 - November 2017 report (table 8) - the total water supplied from SW to irrigation was estimated at 3,270 Mm<sup>3</sup> (assumed average yield of SW). From report number 1 - revised (Mekorot Marathwada WSMP), it was estimated that annual irrigation from GW origin is 6,780 Mm<sup>3</sup> - hence: 3,270 Mm<sup>3</sup> + 6,780 Mm<sup>3</sup> = 10,050 Mm<sup>3</sup> = estimate of total irrigation supply.

**Table5.Marathwada region abstract irrigation water use from SW resources per project size -MM<sup>3</sup>,2018**

	Major+Medium	minor	Total
completed projects	1,624	1,646	3,270

Source: integrated state water plan for Godavari Basin in Maharashtra

**Table6.Annual SWwaterforirrigationsupplypersub-basin–MM<sup>3</sup>**

SubBasin	Year			
	2006	2008	2009	2010
Godavari	2,213	2,146	588	1,762
Krishna	49	77	49	65
LowerTerna	-	37	14	-
Others	324	355	199	671
Tapi	-	2	2	5
GrandTotal	2,586	2,616	851	2,504

**Table 7.Projectedincreaseinmonsoonrainfallperdistrictfortheyears2030, 2040and2050.**

#	District	Normalmonsoon rainfall forMarathwada(mm)*	Projected increase inmonsoon rainfall (%increasefrom baseline)			Projected monsoonrainfall(mm)		
			2030	2040*	2050	2030	2040*	2050
1	Hingoli	708.8	22.9	24.6	26.3	871	883	895
2	Beed		22.65	24.425	26.2	869	882	895
3	Nanded		19.22	21.26	23.3	845	859	874
4	Latur		17.93	19.765	21.6	836	849	862
5	Jalna		23.4	23.75	24.1	875	877	880
6	Parbhani		22.64	23.07	23.5	869	872	875
7	Osmanabad		19.8	19.98	20.16	849	850	852
8	Aurangabad		24.95	25	25.05	886	886	886

In order to estimate irrigation water supply at plot level, the following losses were assumed:

- 40% losses from GW system on plot level
- 60% losses from SW system on convey systems+plot levels

Hence,  $6,780 \times 0.6 + 3,270 \times 0.4 = 5,376 \text{ MM}^3$  = average net water available to plot irrigated area. Upon analyzing the WALMI institute water audit data for past years, it is found that SW supplied for irrigation was calculated per project and per sub-basin (calculating left and right bank release and adding lift for irrigation for every project).

Table 6 clearly marks the fluctuation in water supply to irrigation from SW sources due to annual rainfall. Report number 1 calculates  $3,036 \text{ Mm}^3$  for irrigation water use for the whole of Marathwada in the year 2014 (from Walmi data department) and this bears similarity to the Godavari report ( $3,270$ ).

Today, the demand for irrigation water is much higher than the water available. This report analyses and projects irrigation water requirement (IWR) in Marathwada.

The analysis of the seasonal Irrigation Water Requirement (IWR) per District and per Taluka, considered the data in the climate change report regarding the effects of CC on water use in agriculture (Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies for Maharashtra (MSAAPC) provides projections for 2030 and 2050) as well. The MSAAPC report projected around 20% increase in the monsoon rain intensities over the years 2030 – 2050. Report analyses the annual rainfall data for Marathwada covering a period of 36 years, 1981-2017, and drawn from different data sources like the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and local authorities. The data present a decreasing trend in the annual rainfall, with a magnitude nearing 10% for the period for the past 30 years. The annual average was calculated as  $677 \text{ mm}$  to  $707 \text{ mm}$ , with a standard deviation of  $184 \text{ mm}$ .

In order to obtain a more conservative approach, this report assumes no increase in rainfall in future and uses the current average annual rainfall as the bottom scenario of  $677 \text{ mm}$ . This is to ignore the future projection regarding increase in rainfall in this area due to climate change effects.

Here we can assume no increase in rainfall over the years; it is assumed that temperature will rise as predicted in the MSAA PC report and, as a result, an increase in average evapotranspiration by up to 14.8% above the current average by 2050. A 5% decadal increase in average evapotranspiration of crops from 2030 to 2050 was assumed, rising to 15% above the current baseline in 2050.

The IWR projection also includes the improvement in efficiency that will take place in the agriculture sector over time, and assumes efficiency to increase by 11% with comparison to the current state. The water requirement projections are summarized for the irrigation sector season wise and total. It is important to note that the figures are represented so as to understand the load of the agriculture sector on the water resources of the region.

## 1.2 Water Demand Projections

Projections for decadal taluka wise water demand were made for 2020–2050 as regards the following sectors:

### 1.2.1

**Averaged daily water demand [L/D] = LPCD \* Population:**

This is the average daily water demand in a year and calculated based on the forecast LPCD values (liters per capita per day) received. LPCD values for planning purposes differ according to legislation and existing manuals.

### 1.2.2 Yearly Demand [M<sup>3</sup>/Year] =

Averaged daily demand [L/D] \*  $365/1000$ .

### 1.2.3 Maximum daily Demand [M<sup>3</sup>/Day]

= Averaged daily water demand \* 1.2-1.12

This is the maximum daily demand for water and the maximum hourly demand can be drawn from this. To design a water transmission system, it is important to know the maximum per-day demand for water and the duration of the daily supply.

There are seasonal and even daily variations in the demand for water, the maximum demand being calculated by adding 10-30% to the

average daily demand. A much greater variation takes place in two peaks during the same day (hourly variation), one in the morning and one in the evening. The peak factor by which the average hourly demand must be multiplied depends on the size and character of the community served. It tends to be high for small villages and lower for small towns. This report has taken 20% above the averaged daily water demand.

Water demand projections for Industry and for the rural, urban and bovine populations represent the maximum daily supply for every taluka.

Sufficient water must be available to meet the peak demands and the pumps and distribution system must be suitably designed for this. Hourly variations can influence the design of pipe diameters, pumps and service reservoirs.

### 1.2.3 Water Loss Coefficient

The Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO) determines the Non-Revenue Water (NRW) coefficient - typically measured as the volume of water "lost" as a share of the net water produced - to be no more than 15 % within residential areas. The same coefficient was used for the industrial, urban, rural and bovine water demand calculations. A one % decline in NRW coefficient is assumed for each preceding decade, on considerations of expected improvement in water supply systems both in performance and in maintenance. We assumed that every 10 years the loss coefficient will be reduced by at least 1 %

**1.2.4 Yearly water Supply**  $[M^3/Year] =$   
 Average Yearly Demand  $[M^3/Year] \times$   
 (1 + Water loss coefficient).

**1.2.4 Maximum daily Supply**  $[M^3/day] =$  Max  
 daily Demand  $[M^3/Day]^*$  (1 + Water  
 loss coefficient).

## II. Methodology

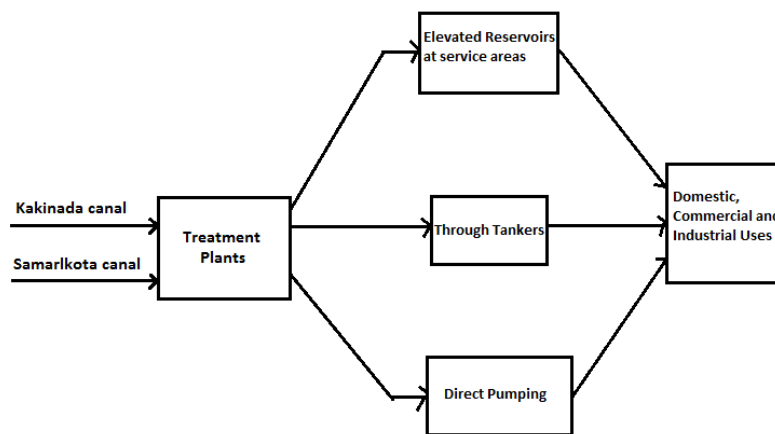
To estimate water demand projections for the rural and urban sectors, the following parameters need to be defined:

- LPCD - is the water demand in litres per capita per day.
- Population projections
- Averaged daily water demand  $[L/D]$ .
- Yearly Demand  $[M^3/Year]$ .
- Maximum daily Demand  $[M^3/Day]$ .
- Water Loss coefficient

Estimation of water demand and supply is necessary to calculate:

- Pipe capacity
- Reservoir capacity
- Design flow
- water pumping stations

**Fig.1 Schematic flow diagram of water supply in Major areas in Marathwada**



Source: MWRRA's order no 9/2017 dt 22.9.2017

**Table 8. Applicable per capita norms for entitlement to DBWU – MWRRA**

Sr. No.	Category	Norm (lpcd)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Rural Water Supply Schemes	55
2	Peri-urban Area	70*
3	Municipal Councils	
	3a) C - Class	70*
	3b) B - Class	100*
	3c) A - Class	125*
4	Municipal corporations (having population less than 50 lakh)	135*
5	Metropolitan centers (having population equal to or more than 50 lakh)	150*



### III. Discussion

One major factor responsible for the water crisis is the change in crop pattern to one which is not congruent with the agro-climatic characteristics of this region. Earlier, the main crops cultivated here used to be cereal and oilseeds. These crops were not only conducive to Marathwada's arid climate but were drought-resistant and led to moisture harvesting. But now, the predominant crops here are soybean and Bt Cotton, which dominate more than 80% of Marathwada's cultivable land. These crops, coupled with the lure of easy profits from sugarcane, have led the farmers and the citizens to the edge of the current hydrological disaster. Another factor responsible for the crisis is the diversion of water to the industries and sugar factories. Sugar factories in Marathwada were operational despite the mounting water crisis. To produce 1 kg of sugar, about 2,000 litres of water are required. There was also no significant effort was made by the State to curtail the water supply  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the industries. Moreover, there has been no significant effort at harvesting water or replenishing the groundwater table.

### IV. Conclusion

There are provisions within the Maharashtra Irrigation Act of 1976 wherein the government can notify people in the command area not to go in for water-intensive crops like sugarcane in the case of acute water scarcity. Cultivation of drought-resistant crops like oilseeds and pulses should be encouraged. People should be encouraged to adopt water harvesting practices and watershed should be developed under the MGNREGA programme to replenish the groundwater table. Finally, to tackle this situation, several political measures should be undertaken. Scientific dry farming with introduction of less water intensive crops like oilseeds and pulses to be taken as one of the main task. Marathwada region has tremendous potential for horticulture development such as sweet lime, pomegranate, etc. Sugarcane crushing is to be stopped and finally to be shifted from this area to the nearby area. Industries like beer, distilled water need to be shifted in peripheral area. Steps should be taken to introduce integrated marketing system to avoid exploitation by intermediary. With judicious water management, the area can be turned into a successful grassland farming area.

### References

- [1] Atkins, C.H. (1957). "Development of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Program in India, AmJPublicHealth Nations Health, Vol 47(10), pp 1257-1264.
- [2] Birdie, G.S., and Birdie, J.S. (2010). "Water Supply and Sanitary Engineering". Dhanpat Rai publishers, ISBN: 81-87433-31-0.
- [3] Bose, P.C. (1954). "Water-Supply Systems in Rural Areas of India, West Bengal, Bull World Health, Vol 10(2), pp 292-298.
- [4] Dileep Mavalankar and Manjunath Shankar. (2004). "Sanitation and Water Supply, The Forgotten Infrastructure", Chapter 13 in India Infrastructure Report 2004, pp 315-335, Oxford University press.
- [5] Government of West Bengal. (2002). "Annual Administrative Report (2001-2002), Department of Panchayats and Rural Development", Chapter 13 in Rural Development, pp 232-254.
- [6] Government of India planning Commission. (2007). "Report of the Steering Committee on Water Resources for eleventh five year plan (2007-2012)" Vol 1 Indira Khurana and Romit Sen. (2008).
- [7] "Water Aid, Drinking water quality in rural India, Issues and Approaches", accessed online 15<sup>th</sup> July at [www.waterawards.in/suggested-reading/wateraid-drinking-water-quality.pdf](http://www.waterawards.in/suggested-reading/wateraid-drinking-water-quality.pdf)
- [8] Jenna Davis, Gary White, Said Damodaron and Rich Thorsten. (2008). "India, Microfinance for Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Development", IWA publishers, pp 87-91. John Butterworth and John Soussan. (2000).
- [9] "Water Supply and Sanitation and Integrated Water Resources Management", pp 1-16, accessed online 19<sup>th</sup> August
- [10] Khatri, K.B., and Vairavamoorthy, K. (2007). "Challenges Urban Water Supply and Sanitation in The Developing Countries", Discussion Draft paper pp 1-18.
- [11] "Urban Water and Waste Water", Chapter 7 in India Infrastructure Report 2006, pp 131-159. Maria

- [12] Saleth,R., and Sastry,G.S. (2004).  
“Water supply and sanitation sector ofKarnataka, India: status, performance and change”, Water Policy 6, pp 161–183,IWA publishers, accessed online 15<sup>th</sup> August at [http://lepii.upmf-grenoble.fr/IMG/pdf/texte\\_Sastry\\_WP-2004-KN-Paper.pdf](http://lepii.upmf-grenoble.fr/IMG/pdf/texte_Sastry_WP-2004-KN-Paper.pdf)
- [13] PlanningCommissionGovernmentofIndi  
a;IndiaAssessment(2002).“WaterSupply andSanitation”,accessedonline 21<sup>st</sup> September,[www.planningcommission.gov.in/reports/genrep/wtrsani.pdf](http://www.planningcommission.gov.in/reports/genrep/wtrsani.pdf)
- [14] Marathwada water supply master plan,MIDC  
Aurangabad.[parisara.kar.nic.in/PDF/Rural\\_Urban\\_WSS.pdf](http://parisara.kar.nic.in/PDF/Rural_Urban_WSS.pdf)