



Architectural heritage of Paithan, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Paithan, an ancient town in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra state is strategically located on left bank of River Godavari. The town is well known for its historic, sacred, Architectural, religious, tourist's and cultural values. The city is also an important Pilgrimage centre and is famous for handloom heritage i.e "Paithani saris". This paper would be an attempt to study and highlight existing historic structure at Paithan and to bring them into lime light. This will help to enhance tourist potential of the place, revival of culture, and for framing policy guidelines. The up-gradation of physical infrastructure and community participation by creating awareness among people will help to achieve the aim of enhancement and encashment of tourist potential at Paithan.

Keywords: Paithan, Godavari, tourist spot, values, Architecture, Historic structure.

1 Introduction:

Paithan is located at latitude 19 degree, 39', 19" N and 75 degree, 25', 2" E [1] 52 km from Aurangabad district, Maharashtra State, on Ahmadnagar - Aurangabad state highway No.30 [2]. It is situated on the north bank of river Godavari. The city gained sacred value due to Godavari River and was also called as "Dakshin Kashi" during Yadawa's period. The place is well known as a land of Saint, Prophets and philosophers. Paithan gained its religious value because of Saints like Dnyaneshwar, Bhanudas, Eknatha, Shivadinath, Amritraya, and Krishna Dayrnava. Also it is a birth place of famous Saint Eknath which made it a pilgrim centre. The city has a rich historic past. It was ruled by multiple dynasties. It was a capital for Satavahana dynasty from 230 BC to 230 AD [3] and was also designated as "Pratishthana". Later on, it was a political seat for Vakataka, Chalukya's, Rashtrakuta's, Yadava's, Khilji's, Mugal's, Maratha's and Peshwa. Due to this history there are enormous Architectural possibilities to explore the past through the existing remains of the standing historic structures. These structures depict the grandeur achieved under various dynasties. The Handloom Heritage of Paithani Sari weaving has a strong history from 2000 years till date [4]. It had a trade relation with Rome.

Silk was exported to foreign through trade route making Paithan as an important trade and commerce centre during Satvahana period. The Paithani Saris also contributes to drag the tourist in Paithan. At present Paithan comes on 20th rank in the list of famous tourist destination in Maharashtra [5]. For the Monuments falling under A.S.I. Aurangabad circle, 41,12,452 number of tourists visited in 2015-2016. They are the targeted and expected tourist for the Paithan. The peak months when the tourist's inflow is maximum for monuments under Aurangabad circle are January, February and March [6]. The existing Jayakwadi Dam, Bird sanctuary, Saint Dyaneshwar Garden, Nath Samadhi Temple, Jain Tirth Kestra, are the places of attraction for tourist [4]. The city has rich culture as there are people practicing their traditional occupation since for last 100 to 300 year of professional Priest, weavers, Kirtankars etc. They formed intangible cultural heritage of the city.

1.1 Significance of study:

This research would be an attempt to explore the Architectural Heritage and to bring them in limelight. The basic idea is to focus on the existing heritage structures, and to give suggestive measure to keep them alive. The

city's physical developments is required for the comfort of tourists and reviving of cultural heritage of city. The enhancement of tourism is the prime goal of the study which will directly or indirectly help in adding to economy and development of city, provide job opportunities, and sustaining the culture.

1.2 Literature Review:

The available literature on Paithan provide a detailed idea about city's history, religious condition, Saints and Prophets, its trade and commerce and covers the entire personality of Paithan [7, 8]. It also gives a detail list and description about all important existing historic structures/ tourist places [9]. The Handloom heritage history, its weaving and its various pattern is also been discussed in depth [10]. The Architectural aspect is intensively discussed with respect to Wada's planning and designing, its details of wooden members [11]. A selected set of papers entirely on Paithan, describes various aspect of Paithan from political, economical, Architectural, religious and spiritual [12]. One of the paper focuses on Architectural dimension describing in detail the most significant details of the plans and construction of the two brick temples and outlines their architectural development throughout the time that they were in use, which is believed to have been between approximately the 5th and the 8th century AD [13].

1.3 Literature gap:

The earlier efforts taken by the scholars highlights all the aspects of Paithan but still there is a gap, as the scholars have not attempted the following points during their course of study,

1. The potential of historic Architectural structures for tourism.
2. How these ancient or medieval structures can be used in present context.
3. How the history can be used in present.

This Paper would be an attempt to fill the above mentioned literature gap.

2. Methodology:

Type of study: Observational study. A Questionnaire for survey was made. The questionnaire included question related to age, gender, occupation, income, residency, family size, vehicle owned, period of belonging to Paithan, daily routine, utilization of leisure time/ social life, Nath Shasti participation and changes taking place in city, famous location, traffic sense, parking, cities issues, street light, awareness about history. etc. The information was

analyzed and conclusions were derived from it. Personal interviews of people were also taken.

Type of sampling: Random Stratified.

Inclusion Criteria: People Belonging to Paithan for more than 100 yrs and residing in historic core/ pura's. They are the real stake holder of Paithan.

Size of sampling: 80 people.

Study Design: Survey and interviews.

Study population: Local resident

Place of study: Paithan

Aim of survey: To find out the problems in the city related to physical infrastructure

3 Study Areas:

3.1 Educational category: Jayakwadi Dam

a) Salient Features: The Dam is also called as "Nath Sagar" built on the river Godavari. It is one of the biggest earthen Dam in the Asia with capacity of 102 Tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet). Hydro power electricity is being generated by it. Dam is a site for bird sanctuary more than 215 species of bird are observed and from it 80 species of Birds are from foreign countries are found, Flamingos from Siberia, Cormorant, Golden Duck, River turn, Glossy Ibis, Teal, Pochard and Brahminy Duck and many more migrates during winter season between October to April.

b) Proposal: Beautification of the periphery of dam through Landscape is recommended.

3.2 Recreational category: Sant Dnyaneshwar Garden

a) Salient Feature: It has an area of 120 ha[9]. Designed on the line of Pinjor garden of North India and Vrindawan garden from south India. Its musical water fountain, cascade, are the main attraction for the visitors. On site, to its north, there is Tatva Gyan Peeth and Museum.

b) Proposal: Need for modification and up-gradation of garden. Public Private Partnerships with new set of rules is to be framed and to update memorandum by adding a clause that the garden should serve people of all age group. So along with passive recreation there must be passive entertainment activity to be added without disturbing its identity.

3.3 Cultural Heritage category: Paithani Handloom

a) Salient Features: The Paithani derives its name from Paithan where it has been manufactured since 2000 years. It was being exported to Rome through trade route. It is essentially a silk saree with an ornamented zari pallav,

border and traditional motifs of Peacock, Parrots, asavali [14]. etc. with gold and silver threads used. The sari is often known by the motif that dominates its border or pallav. The wrap and wept technique of weaving Paithani is unique. The Maharashtra government rejuvenated the art by training people at the Paithani Kala Centre.

b) Proposal: The policies for promoting sell of Paithani are to be framed example using of peculiar motif of Paithani sari as a logo on government Buses specially going to Paithan giving the city a state identity. This will keep the culture alive. Arranging of Paithani Festival twice a year, during summer vacation and before Diwali season. Promotion of Paithani at various famous tourist location at Aurangabad is recommended.

3.4 Religious category: Nath Samadhi Temple.

a) Salient Features: The place is pious as Saint Eknath took jal Samadhi (voluntarily ended his life) here. And later there was a temple constructed on this place. The temple has two distinct areas:

1. Central Structure: It is the Garbhagriha (sanctum) constructed in wood, where there is an inscription mentioning the period of Samadhi as 1521 AD.

2. Sabhamandapa: It is a double heighted pavilion constructed in wood and with intrinsic wooden carving. The roof of sabhamandap is also Wooden material. It was built in 19th Century with plain wooden columns and the arches. The arches are minutely detailed with peacock and parrots motifs which hold attention of visitors. There are wooden pendants, a decorative element, hanging inside and outside of sabhamandapa.

b) Proposal: Restoring and utilizing its old construction technique of wood construction for any addition or modification along its periphery. Maintaining and conserving originality of the structure for longer life span of the building.

3.5 Historic Monument category: Teerth Khamb

a) Salient Feature: It belong to 13th century AD. from Yadav period. It is constructed of different pieces of stone arranged together. It contains figures of Hindu gods like

Table 1 Assessment of structure from study area in specific.

Study area	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5
Name of Place	Jayakwadi Dam	Dyaneshwar Garden	Paithani Handloom	Saint Eknath Temple	Teerth Khamb
Category	Dam	Garden	Heritage	Temple	Monument
Usage	Educational	Recreational	Commercial	Religious / Pilgrimage	Historic Monument
Ownership	Government	Government	Government	Trust	Archeology
Construction	Earthen/Random Rubble	Landscape	RCC	Dressed stone/ Wood	Dressed stone
Ornamentation	---	---	---	Arches/ Exterior Brackets	Column
Location	Remote	Remote	Remote	Core	Core
Density of Settlement	Sparse	Sparse	Sparse	—	Congested
Values	Constructional/ Educational	Recreational	Artistic/History/ Educational/ commercial	Artistic/History/ Religious/Myth	Artistic/Myth/ History
Present condition	Good	Not maintained	Good	Good	Good
Surrounding	Developed	Developed	Developed	Developed	Slum
Streetscape	Appealing	Appealing	Appealing	Appealing	Unpleasant
Chronology	1965-1976	1985		16 century AD.	Yadava period
Suggestive Measures	Beautification Of periphery	Maintenance	Promotion of Paithani	Controlled development	Beautification
Inference	Development In situ.	Development In situ.	Development In situ.	----	Development In situ.

Bhairava, Saptamatrukas and Ganesha. The surmounting member at the top of Khamb resembles a Jaina architecture feature. It holds religious value because it projects the mystical three words, Patal lok (Hell), Pruthavi lok (Earth) and Swarga lok (Heven).

b) Proposal: Beautification of surrounding through landscape is recommended. Surrounding Slum area should be shifted by Authorities. Provision of parking place,

widening and beautification of road. Conservation of the monument and regular maintenance will add to its life.

Further, assessment and analysis of above examples discussed under study area, are done based on Infrastructure condition, accessibility, legibility of structure, safety etc as shown in Table 1. Similar Assessment and analysis was done for remaining existing structures at Paithan shown in table 2,3,4.

Table. 2. Assessment of structure for Recreational category

Sr.no.	Name of Structure	Existing Problem	Suggestive Measure
1	Nag Ghat	Not popular as tourist spot.	To add Vibrancy by adding shops, adaptive use of existing old structure as audio and visual hall narrating Nag Ghats past.

Table. 3. Assessment of structure for Religious category

Sr.no	Name of Structure	Existing Problem	Suggestive Measure
1	Gadheshwar Temple	No parking	Need for provision of Parking
2	Moksha Ghat	River Pollution through sewage and garbage	Clean Godavari strategies
3	Dholeswar Temple	No parking	Need for provision of Parking
4	Jain Temple	No parking	Need for provision of Parking
5	Krishna Dyarnav Matha	Unmaintained	Develop In situ.
6	Kalbhairav Temple	Located in congested core area	Norms for Conservation of old cityscape and signage's.
7	Narsimha Mandir	Located in congested core area	Norms for Conservation of old cityscape and signage's.
8	Cot Masjid	Under used, no approach road.	Develop In situ / Conservation of structure/ adaptive use.
9	Sayed Sdad Dargah	No parking	Norms for Conservation of old cityscape, signage's, provision of parking.
10	Maulana Dargha	Threat of collapsing entrance Structure.	Conservation of structure.
11	Siddheshwar temple	Low life of structure, erosion of stone in structure.	Develop In situ / Revive through landscaping as a passive recreation, conservation of structure.
12	Ganesh Ghat	No Parking	Beautification through landscape, Need for provision of Parking.
13	Nav Nath Temple	Under developed surrounding	Develop In situ

Table. 4. Assessment of structure for Architectural category

Sr.no	Name of Structure	Existing Problem	Suggestive Measure
1	Shalivahana Wada	Presently turned into Masjid	Should be made Accessible for all
2	Dhondinath Matha	Under utilized	Conservation of structure and adaptive use.
3	Palthi Nagari	Restricted area under ASI	Allow public to view Excavations of structures.
4	Ladoo Wada	Dilapidated condition	Conservation of structure
5	Shivdin Kesari Math	Dilapidated condition	Conservation of structure
6	Maley Masjid	Dilapidated condition	Conservation of structure

4 Results and Discussion: On the bases of survey conducted at Paithan following results are observed. The questions supporting enhancement of tourism, economy of the city, infrastructure development, are selected for the discussion.

4.1 Occupational structure of people at Paithan:

Figure 1 shows that highest percentage is of Tertiary sector i.e service industries 58% and lowest of primary sector i.e agriculture, fishing, mining etc comes 20%..

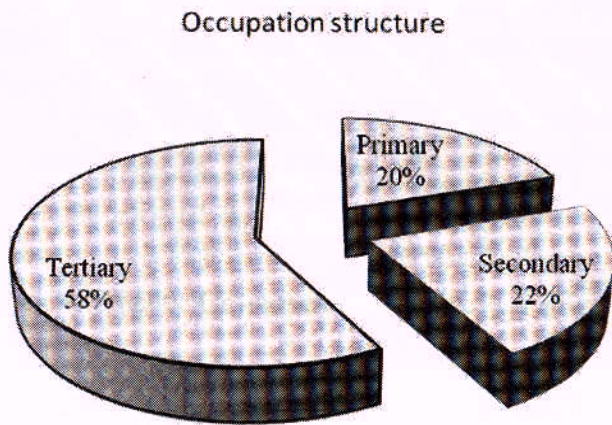


Fig. 1. Occupational structure at Paithan

People from their tradition business is shifting to the other segments. This shift is due to many reasons like, new job opportunity, better earning or sometime inadequate support from government and no up gradation of policies. To boost tourism in the city, the tourist should be provided with opportunity to come to city throughout the year. Proposing a new tourist time table refer table 5 below, will be a combination of celebrated and un-noticed events. These events needs to be started or requires strong attention by the local Government. This new structure of events will make the cultural fabric strong and even revive it. This will provide source of earning to the people practicing their traditional occupation for 100 to 300 years in the city example kirtankars, kahars, sweet seller, Brahamins class, weavers etc. and also to people in general, earning their livelihood. Government's smart policies are required so as to secure this intangible cultural heritage of the city and to revive the lost stake of inhabitants having traditional association. Organizing Paithani exhibision cum sale, agricultural expo, fairs etc. will drag in people from hinter land during Padawa, Gokul Ashtami and give back Paithan its cultural value. Also production of small item of silk with affordable price, introducing Paithani festivals, training of kirtankars etc. tourism enhancement will be a way out to promote this culture of traditional association of occupation.

Table. 5. Proposed tourist time table

MONTH EVENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Birdsanctuary	✓	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		✓	✓	✓
Paithani *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	---	---	---		✓	✓	✓
Nath shasti	---	---	✓	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	---
Ashadi/Kartiki Ekadashi	---	---	---	---	---	✓	✓	---		✓	✓	---
Gokul Astami	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	✓		---	---	---
Gudi Pawada	---	---	---	✓	---	---	---	---		---	---	---
Academic tours	✓	✓	---	---	---	---	---	---		---	✓	✓
Tourist footfall Aurangabad	✓	✓	---	---	---	---	---	---		---	---	✓

4.2 Economic status of people:

Figure 2 shows that the lowest income group occupies highest percentage i.e 37.21%. Tourism will provide a boon to rise the economy of the city and will generate employment opportunity.

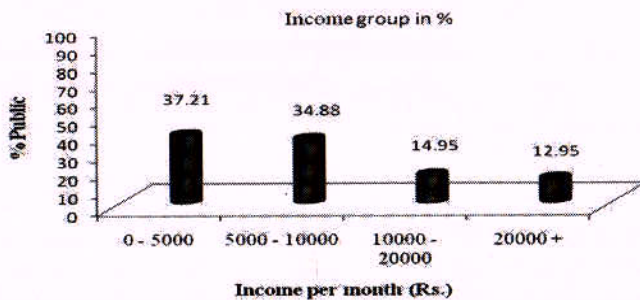


Fig 2 Showing Economic status of people

4.3 Popularity index of places at Paithan:

The results for most popular Places is based on public vote for sample size of 80 people. Fig 3 shows that Nath Mandir is most popular, as 99% of public voted it.

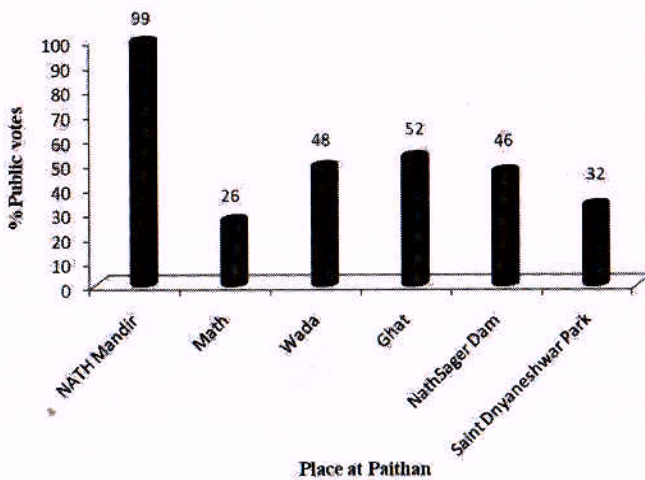


Fig. 3. Popularity index of places at Paithan

The statistics proves it as a famous religious place. Nath Mandir acts as the magnet of the city. The economic and social pattern of the city also gets boosted up due to this Temple. Attention is to be made to keep these places maintain and updated for tourists. The Moksha Ghat forms the inseparable part of Nath Temple. Clean Godavari strategy is to be put in action.

4.4 Problem identification at Paithan City:

Figure 4 below shows that 69.76% public voted as Nala choke up as major problem.

For the convenience of inhabitants and tourists, the local government body i.e. Municipal council initiatives are required for providing a hygienic environment and a cleaner city. A positive City image will lead to publicity of place

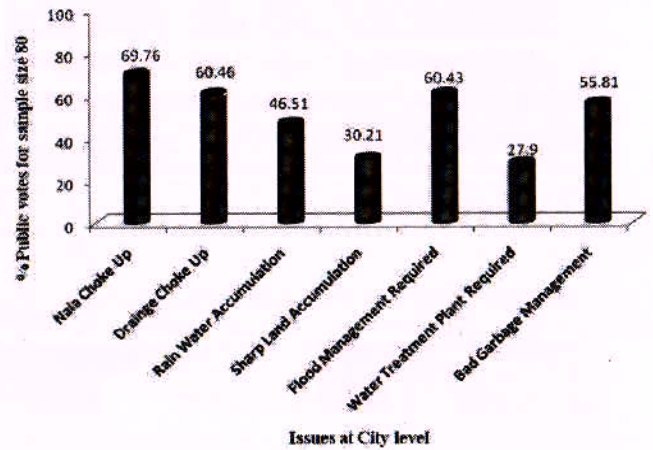


Fig. 4. Problem identification at Paithan City.

and will raise the tourist footfall eventually. This paper will be restricted to Identification of problem. Measures to be taken or policies to be decided on this inferences is left as further scope of research.

4.5 Awareness in people about Paithan history:

Figure 5 shows that 79% of inhabitants of Paithan are aware and sensitive about history of Paithan.

Though people are aware about the history of city and its importance still city has infrastructure problems as shown in fig 4, due to insufficient funds to local authorities like

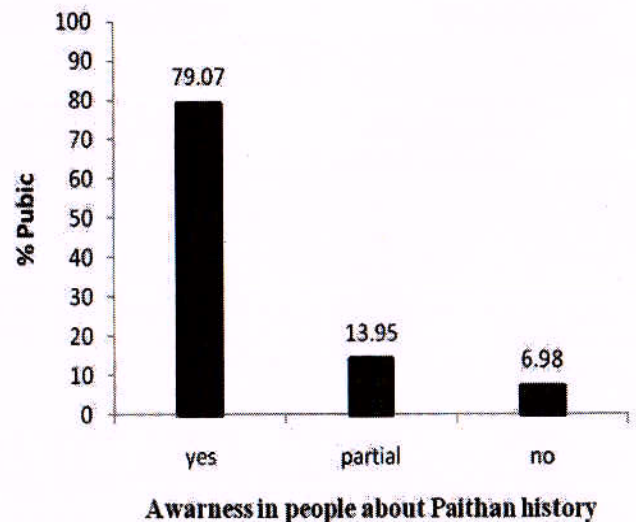


Fig. 5. Awareness in people about Paithan history

Municipal Council and lack political will. The awareness among the people provokes community participation to safe guard the Heritage. Consequently they will take a proper measures to care and maintain it. The existing Heritage will invite tourist in the city ultimately generating income for the inhabitants. People will take initiative leading to clean and maintained town as now economy is connected to the awareness.

5 Conclusions:

1 Paithan is to be included in tourist circuit of ASI circle Aurangabad, which already include Ellora, Ajanta, Bibi Ka Makbara, Aurangabad caves and Dautabad.

2 The City branding strategy along the stretch of routes connecting Paithan from Aurangabad Shevgaon, Beed, should be adopted. Advertisement boards / hoardings of tourist places at Paithan, should be placed along the divider/roadside.

3 Development of Tourism by maintaining Architectural Heritage will help to generate economy of the City so the.

4 Clean Godavari measures specifically near Moksha Ghat are needed.

5 Promotion of city by means of putting logo of motif of Paithani on local transport buses connecting Paithan. This will give it a state identity.

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