

**KRANTISINH NANA PATIL COLLEGE, WALWA DIST. SANGLI**

Year: 2024-2025

**A Brief Report**

**Name of the Committee:** Dept. of Geography

**Name of the Activity:** Field Project

**Date:** 11/02/2025

**Number of Students Participated:** 06

**Venue:** A/P- Shirgaon Tal. Walwa Dist. Sangli

**Project Guide:** Dr. Jadhav Krishnat Rajaram

---

**Brief Report:**

**Objective of Study:** To analyze the economic conditions of Shirgaon village.

**1. Introduction**

Shirgaon is a rural village situated on the banks of the Krishna River in Sangli district of Maharashtra. The village's economy is primarily based on agriculture, with a notable focus on sugarcane cultivation and dairy farming. Shirgaon offers a unique insight into the economic condition of rural India, particularly in areas that rely heavily on crop and livestock farming.

**2. Geography and Demographics of Shirgaon**

Shirgaon lies in the Walwa tehsil of Sangli district situated along the fertile banks of the Krishna River. The river provides irrigation for the agricultural land, which is essential for crops like sugarcane. The village has a population of approximately 2000, with a majority of the residents engaged in farming activities.

**3. Agricultural Sector**

**a. Sugarcane Cultivation**

Sugarcane is the backbone of Shirgaon's agriculture. The fertile soil, enhanced by the irrigation facilities from the Krishna River, supports the cultivation of sugarcane. Key findings from the visit include:

- **Area Under Sugarcane:** A significant portion of the agricultural land is dedicated to sugarcane cultivation.
- **Economic Impact:** Sugarcane serves as a primary cash crop. Farmers are generally dependent on the seasonal harvest, which is sold to local sugar mills. However, the price of sugarcane fluctuates, influencing farmers' income levels.
- **Challenges:**
  - **Market Prices:** There is concern about the price volatility of sugarcane. In years of low prices, farmers often face financial distress.
  - **Labor Issues:** Harvesting sugarcane is labor-intensive. There are seasonal migrant workers who come to help, but managing labor availability remains a challenge.

**Dairy Farming**

### a. Livestock Ownership

Dairy farming plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of Shirgaon's population. Nearly 70 per cent of the households own cattle, which are primarily used for milk production.

- **Milk Production:** On average, each household produces [insert amount] liters of milk per day.
- **Economic Significance:** Dairy farming provides a steady source of income throughout the year, unlike seasonal crops. It supplements the income of farmers and helps in improving the nutritional intake of families.

### b. Challenges in Dairy Farming

- **Feed :** One of the main challenges for dairy farmers is the cost and availability of quality feed . The fluctuating price of feed affects dairy productivity.
- **Veterinary Care:** Many farmers reported difficulty in accessing quality veterinary services for their cattle, leading to health issues and reduced milk production.
- **Market Dynamics:** Milk is sold to local markets, cooperatives, or dairy processors. However, the prices for milk fluctuate, and farmers often face delays in payment from buyers or cooperatives.

## 5. Economic Conditions and Livelihood

### a. Household Income

The combined income from agriculture and dairy farming forms the main livelihood for the majority of Shirgaon's population. However, several issues affect the economic stability of households:

- **Income Variability:** Due to the seasonal nature of agriculture and the fluctuating prices of sugarcane and milk, household income is highly variable.
- **Debt:** Many farmers are dependent on loans to cover expenses like buying seeds, fertilizers, and feed for livestock. The high interest rates and inability to repay loans during bad seasons exacerbate financial instability.

### b. Government Support and Schemes

- **Subsidies:** Government subsidies for fertilizers, seeds, and equipment are available but do not always reach farmers in a timely manner.
- **Insurance Schemes:** There are insurance schemes available for both crops and livestock, but awareness about these schemes is limited, and participation is low.

---

## 6. Socio-Economic Challenges

- **Youth Migration:** A large number of youth from Shirgaon migrate to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities. This has led to a shortage of labor for both agriculture and dairy farming.
- **Education:** Although the literacy rate in the village has increased over the years, there are still challenges related to educational infrastructure, especially for higher education.
- **Health Issues:** Access to healthcare facilities is limited, and many villagers rely on traditional remedies. Health awareness campaigns are needed to improve public health.

## 7. Recommendations for Economic Improvement

### a. Strengthening Agricultural Practices

- **Better Irrigation Techniques:** Investment in advanced irrigation systems could help mitigate the challenges posed by water scarcity.
- **Market Linkages:** Encouraging direct market linkages for farmers to sell their produce could reduce dependence on middlemen and increase profitability.

#### b. Support for Dairy Farmers

- **Improved Veterinary Services:** Providing access to better veterinary care and regular health check-ups for livestock can increase milk production and quality.
- **Subsidized Feed:** Government support in providing affordable, quality feed could help improve dairy productivity.

#### c. Awareness Programs

- **Financial Literacy:** Educating farmers about modern agricultural techniques, financial planning, and government schemes could help them manage income variability better.
- **Youth Engagement:** Encouraging the youth to take up agriculture and dairy farming through government schemes, subsidies, and modern farming techniques may reduce migration.

### 8. Conclusion

The economic condition of Shirgaon village is primarily dependent on agriculture, with sugarcane cultivation and dairy farming being the dominant sources of income. Despite the availability of fertile land and access to the Krishna River for irrigation, Shirgaon faces challenges like market price fluctuations, water scarcity, labor shortages, and limited access to modern farming technologies.

Improvement in these areas, along with better financial literacy and healthcare access, would significantly enhance the economic conditions and quality of life for the people of Shirgaon.



*Hakawad*  
PRINCIPAL,  
KRANTISINH NANA PATIL COLLEGE  
WALWE, DIST. SANGLI.