

## POI

“Poi” village is prominently an agricultural village situated in south-eastern part of the Kalyan Taluka in the Thane District of Maharashtra State. Administratively it is located in the Thane Forest Division of Thane Forest Circle. It is located in the “Murbad” block of this Division between 73°18' E - 73°16' E latitude and 19°14' N - 19°12' N Longitude. It is located at the foothills of the off-shoots of Sahyadri Mountain Ranges, which is one of the eight identified hot spot bio-geographic zones in the world. This village is situated at the distant end of the Kalyan Taluka and is accessible by the loop road on National Highway No. 222 from village Raita and Village Kolam.

This village is bounded on eastern & its southern side by the river *Barvi*, which has the Barvi reservoir of MIDC on its upstream. The outflow from this reservoir is tapped by a barrage downstream at Jambhul for its further usage in adjacent metropolis areas of Mumbai Metropolitan region, including areas of Ambarnath, Kalyan, Thane and Navi-Mumbai. The tapping of this asset with the help of the Forest Department under the entry point activities has lend credence to the say of the local staff, who are have a much more comfortable and high level of confidence amongst the locals. The introduction of the concept of the Joint Forest Management has also led to a better amalgamation of the various factions in the village, having affiliations to many of the regional influences. This unity has given rise to many other joint efforts on part of the locals.

The demographic & land use details of this village is as follows

Total Population	Females	Males
835	323	512

Total Population	General	ST	B.P.L.
835	648	187	424

## LAND USE

Total Geographical Area	Area under Cultivation (Major crop)	Area under cultivation (Minor crop)	Cultivable Waste and private holdings	Others
852.40	69.41	78.60	110.41	27.48

## Forest Lands

Reserved Forest	Protected Forest	Total Forest Lands	Forest area % vis-a-vis Geo. area
572.57	63.34	635.91	74.60%

The Watershed classification is WF-35/IV/1-A with river Barvi being the main drainage for the area. A small part of this village is also included in two other micro-watersheds as well viz. WF-35/III/1-A, WF-35/II/1-A. The agricultural lands are around the main settlement with majority portion being on the northern & the western side of this village. The Forest block is predominantly on the southern & the eastern part of the village with cultivable waste and forest forming a "L" shaped area bounded by the river *Barvi*.

Based on the National Forest Policy of 1988 and the Maharashtra Govt.s decision of 16<sup>th</sup> March' 1992, the concept of "Joint Forest Management" was vigorously pursued in the Rural regions included in the Murbad Sub-Division of the Thane Forest Division. The forest officials and the villagers were found to be receptive with a common concern for the well being of the environment. This led to the formation of Forest Protection Committee in 1998 where in whole of the village, whole-heartedly agreed to pursue the agenda listed in the Policy and subsequently implemented the decision of the State Government.

This resulted in the village adopting the idea of bar in usage of axe, grazing, encroachments and alcoholism in 1998 with the pledge for protecting forests from fires to regenerate itself.

The Tree cover from a base of zero density in forest areas has been able to recoup to 0.8 in practically whole of the area with maximum possible 1.0 density in about 60 % of the Forest areas of the village. The forest type in this village is 3B/C1 – *Southern Tropical Moist Teak bearing Forests* with *Teak, Ain, Dhavda, Bonda, Khair, Moha, Palas, Kahandol, Bibla, Asana* in the upper storey of forests. The site quality which appeared to be IVb now seems to be III to IVa in majority of the places. *Gunj, Murud Sheng, Kal-lavi, Vavding, Gulvel, Karvand, Khajkuhili, etc.* are some of the medicinal plants found in this village. *Ukshi & Karvand* form the receding brushwood in today's environs. Amongst the grasses *Kusali, Bhatani, Bondana, Kothar & Kasar* are found on the culturable wastes.

The private culturable waste was an asset only for few holders who cared it as an asset and was limited to only about 10% to 15% of the culturable area. The whole of this land has refurbished itself due to overall protection and has benefited all the holders, who now exploit only these lands for their needs. The Forests has become sacred, with negligible biotic interference.

The detail listed below is amply clear of the difference it has made to the environments and the wealth created by the villages with their initiatives and active guidance of the local forest staff and officials.

The random sampling of all representative areas in the Forest provided an average of 1292 trees per ha. Assuming the same to be 1250 stands/ Ha., the current stock yielding 79.11 cum. (Sampling Blocks of 0.500 Ha. each.) for sample area, the average stock per Ha. at the last count in

the year 2009-10 comes out to be 158.22 cum / Ha.. Thus the estimate yields of whole area stands at a very high quantity. This teak bearing Forest thus at an average rate of Rs. 1350 per cum, represents a value of not less than Rs. 2.0 Lakhs per Ha. This village has become a studying ground for the remaining 104 villages whole of the Taluka besides the rest of the district.

The *Poi* village is registered with the Charity Commissioner as "*Poi Forest Management and Forest Protection Co-op. Society Ltd . Poi, Taluka - Kalyan*" vide registration no. Maha/599/04, dt. 29.06.2004.

The new found unity and the zeal for team-work has also led the village in implementing the following programmes for betterment of their own living conditions:

1. Village Cleanliness
2. Total Education
3. Road Repairs & its strengthening
4. Building of Sewage System & Gutters
5. Cremation Facilities
6. Formation of self help groups
7. Enlightenment for five basic Elements:
  - i. Clean air
  - ii. Clean water
  - iii. Prohibition – for alcohol consumption
  - iv. Population control
  - v. Voluntary labour

The advent of team work with the concept of the Joint Forest Management has led to formation of various other progressive associations, which amongst others include,

1. Non-Agricultural Credit Society – annual turnover Rs.10 Lakhs,
2. Dairy (Milk) Production Co-op. Society – 1 no.
3. *Kukut Palan Gat* – 2 nos.
4. *Mahila Bachat Gat* – 13 nos.
5. *Krida Gat* – 1 no.
6. Cultural, Spiritual & Educational initiatives
  - i. *Swadhaya Parivar*
  - ii. *Dsbodh Nirupans*
  - iii. *Warkari Sampradaya*
7. *Purush Bachat Gat* – 3 nos.
  - i. *Goat Farming*
  - ii. *Mahindra Tractor Agri. Business*
  - iii. *Dairy Development Business*

**Comparative Status Details of current Situation and the status prior to the formation of 'Joint Forest Management Committee**

<b>Details</b>	<b>prior to the formation of JFM Committee</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1. Forests	Overuse & continuous hacking had lead to <b>Zero Density</b> in Forest areas.	Density of 0.8 to 1 attained in majority of the forest area with average girth class of 40 to 45 cms. for all species.	This status has been achieved in 12 years only.
2. Soil & Moisture Conservation	All wells & borewells were rendered dry upto February end	Unlimited Water availability	Tanker fed locality is now Tanker Free area
3. Wildlife	Only Hares & Snakes were visible	Wild Boar, Deers, Jackals, Hyeanas have returned besides increase in wide variety of Butterflies	Wildlife spotting easy with Wild Boar threatening to turn dangerous.
4. Forest Offences	5 to 10 offences per year	No offence for past 10 years	Biotic interference has become negligible.
5. Wastelands & Culturable Wastes	Protected only by few landholders	Ban on usage of Axe and controlled grazing has increased the productivity with appreciable increase in tree cover and easy availability of <i>Rab materials</i>	Pressure on Forests is Nil.
6. Growth in valuable Bio-mass	Annual increment was utilized for production of <b>Zita</b> - temporary fencing material and was approx. 60 cartloads for whole of the forest area. @ 250/- per cartload the value stood at a meager Rs. 15000/- per annum with value of balance root stock being negligible with none or malformed shoots at the end of	Sampling of the Forest area, shows the stock of forest stands at about 158.22 cum. per Ha. An average increment of about 14 cum. per Ha. At an average rate of conservative Rs.1350/- per cum. an increment of Rs. 18900/- is seen only for a Ha. of Forest. With a total Forest area of about 600 Ha. the increment itself is enormous at approx. 1.13 crore for forest areas alone.	The returns that shall be available to the villagers shall be appreciable at the least count in interim operations as well.

	season.		
--	---------	--	--