

**A Geographical Appraisal of Housing Conditions in Rural Part of Kolhapur District****Mrs. Tikekar S.S.**Research Scholar,  
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Kolhapur**Abstract**

*The Kolhapur district is well known for his well agricultural practice; therefore their economic condition is also good. By observing the condition of the houses where they reside is supports the above statement. Situation is refers to the condition of houses whether they are livable condition or not. In the rural region of Kolhapur district more than 73 (73.7%) per cent houses were in good condition and about 24 (24.3%) per cent houses were in livable condition, while only 2 per cent houses were in declining position. The census of India also provides information on the type of houses, but categorized on the basis of roof, walls, etc. and zopari, kucha, Pucca houses are considered on the basis of a material used for their roof that gives some idea regarding their housing condition. Roof top is essential to cover the houses from sunlight as well as rainfall. In the rural part of the district 3 per cent roofs are constructed by using Grass/ Bamboo/ Wood. The roof tiles are general material which is used for cover the roof and here 9 per cent houses are covered with handmade tiles whereas 67.4 per cent houses are covered with machine made tiles. Metal sheets are another important material used as roof and 7.7 per cent houses are covered with metal sheets. Now the house is constructed by using R.C.C. material and near about 10.8 per cent roofs are constructed by using cement Concrete.*

Keywords: situation, livable, good, Dilapidated, houses, rooftops.

**Introduction**

Housing is one of the basic needs of man next to food and clothing as it provides him shelter and protection. The construction and agglomeration of houses marks the sign of human settlements. It carries importance in the geographical analysis of settlements and complex relation between man and his environment (Ramotra, 2008).

The size, quality, type of material used and facilities made available in a house, which accommodates all the family members provides security, basic facilities for comfort and convenience which reflects the social and economic status of the households. Household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, amobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied as separate living quarters.

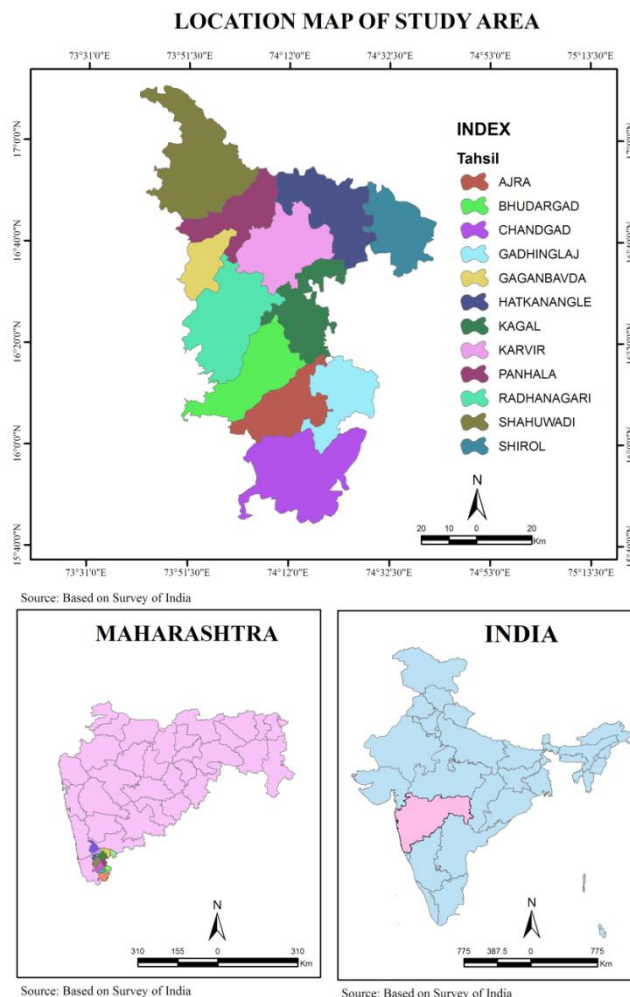
Rural housing is qualitatively different from urban housing in the sense that the housing activity is not very much based on the cash economy but depends to a considerable extend on land rights and access to resources. In rural housing also there is need to provide house sites to the poor so that they are able to erect housing units over them.

In this paper, the attempt is made to look into the details of hosing conditions in the rural settlements of Kolhapur district. It further attempts to study the patterns of zopari, kucha, semi-pucca, pucca and RCC (Reinforce Cement Concrete), rooms per household, as per the sample study of 24 villages in study region.

**Study Area**

Kolhapur district is selected as the study area for the present research work. The region lies between 15° 45' and 17° 10' North latitudes, and between 73° 40' and 74° 42' East longitudes. It covers an area of 7685 sq.kms, which is 2.49 % of total area of the state.

In 2011 population of the region is 3,876,001 which are 3.44 % of the total population of the state whereas 68.26 % of population live in rural area. The district includes 12 tahsil with 23 towns and 1216 villages.



## Objective

The main objective of the present study is to over view of the housing condition in rural areas of Kolhapur district.

## Database & Methodology

The present study is based on secondary sources of data. The Secondary data was collected from the District Census Handbooks, Statistical Abstracts and socio-economic review of Kolhapur district. The tahsil-wise data was also obtained for detail investigation. The collected data was processed by employed different statistical and cartographic techniques wherever necessary.

## The Discussion

### Situation of Houses:

Situation is refers to the condition of houses whether they are livable condition or not. In the rural region of Kolhapur district more than 73 (73.7%) per cent houses were in good condition and about 24 (24.3%) per cent houses were in livable condition, while only 2 per cent houses were in declining position.

The Kolhapur district is well known for his well agricultural practice; therefore their economic condition is also good. By observing the condition of the houses where they reside is supports the above statement.

The tahsils like Shahuwadi, Panhala, Karvir and Radhanagari were having good condition of house counted more than 75 per cent, and Gadhinglaj and Chandgad tehsils were falls in lowest (Below 70 %) position. Good quality of houses having in the tahsils of Hatkanangle, Shirol, Bavda, Kagal, Bhudargad and Ajara (70 to 75 %). In case of dilapidated houses, were highly found in the Hatkanangle, Shirol, Kagal, Bhudargad, Ajara, Gadhinglaj and Chandgad tehsil and majority of livable houses were in Shirol, Bavda, Kagal, Bhudargad, Ajra, Gadhinglaj and Chandgad tehsils which was more than district average. These tehsils were lies on the Sahyadri hilly and eastern foothill areas, and having high rainfall therefore the housing condition was looking worst to good.

By observing above table 1 it is clearly indicates that in rural region of all tehsils in study region has good quality of houses and dilapidated houses which are poor for living are very minimum in numbers. In the district, Karvir tahsil has maximum numbers of good quality houses where as Gadhinglaj tahsil were having minimum numbers in good quality houses. As per the dilapidated houses Shirol tahsil has maximum and Gaganbavada tahsil has minimum numbers.

#### **Types Of Households:**

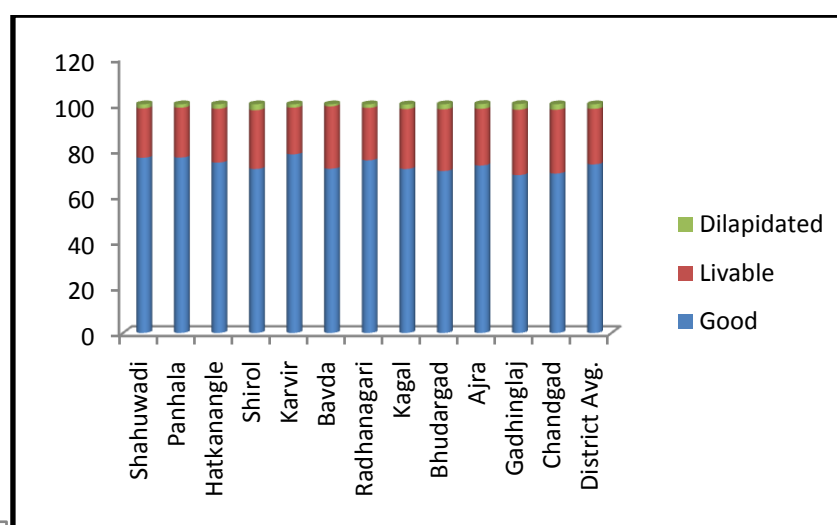
The census of India also provides information on the type of houses, but categorized on the basis of roof, walls, etc. and zopari, kucha, Pucca houses are considered on the basis of a material used for their roof that gives some idea regarding their housing condition.

**Table 1: Condition of Houses in Rural Area of Kolhapur District**

<b>Tehsils</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Livable</b>	<b>Dilapidated</b>
<b>Shahuwadi</b>	76.6	21.6	1.8
<b>Panhala</b>	76.7	21.8	1.5
<b>Hatkanangle</b>	74.5	23.5	2
<b>Shirol</b>	71.7	25.7	2.6
<b>Karvir</b>	78.1	20.4	1.5
<b>Bavda</b>	71.8	27.3	0.9
<b>Radhanagari</b>	75.5	22.9	1.6
<b>Kagal</b>	71.7	26.2	2
<b>Bhudargad</b>	70.8	27	2.2
<b>Ajra</b>	73.2	24.8	2.1
<b>Gadhinglaj</b>	69	28.6	2.5
<b>Chandgad</b>	69.7	27.9	2.4
<b>District Avg.</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>2</b>

*Source: District Census Handbook of Kolhapur district, 2011*





### a) Zhopari

Zhopari is the house constructed out of grass, bamboo, etc. the material. The rural population, who are living in remote and far off areas especially, in the mid offorests where, they have to construct such houses for their survival.

It is found that in the study region only 2.1 percent rural population has been living in such grass or the thatched houses. The maximum numbers of Zhopari's are observed in Shirol (3.8%) tehsil followed by Gadhinglaj (2.4 %) and Hatkanangle (2.3%) tehsils while remaining all tehsils are lying below than district average in Zhopari.

### b) Kuccha House

The kucha house is that which is made of mud walls and tiled roofs (Ramotra, 2008 p. 319). It is also considered that the house maybe made of mud, unbrunt bricks, GI sheets or other metal sheets. It is found that more than 36.5 per cent rural households were having kucha houses.

The highest numbers of kucha houses are located in the Ajra (63.8%) followed by Bhudargad (58.3%), Chandgad (57%), Gadhinglaj (50.9%) and Bavda (49.8%) tehsils where more than half of house are kucha house because this tehsils are located in hilly area therefore the economic condition of population is not good as compare to other tehsils while remaining all tehsils are lying below than district average in kucha house.

### c) Pucca House

Pucca house is one of the fine indicators, which reflects immediately at a glance socio-economic status of household. It does not only reflect the status but also provides good protection and security to the members of the households for which the investment is also comparatively very high. More than 56 per cent (56.6%) of them as per census were having pucca house.

In the study region maximum numbers of pucca houses are located Shirol (67.3%) tehsil followed by Panhala (66.5 %), Karvir (66.3%), Hatkanangle (63%) and Kagal (60.4%) tehsils because this tehsils has agriculturally as well as industrially developed tehsils as compare to other tehsils in the study region while remaining all tehsils are lying below than district average in pucca house.

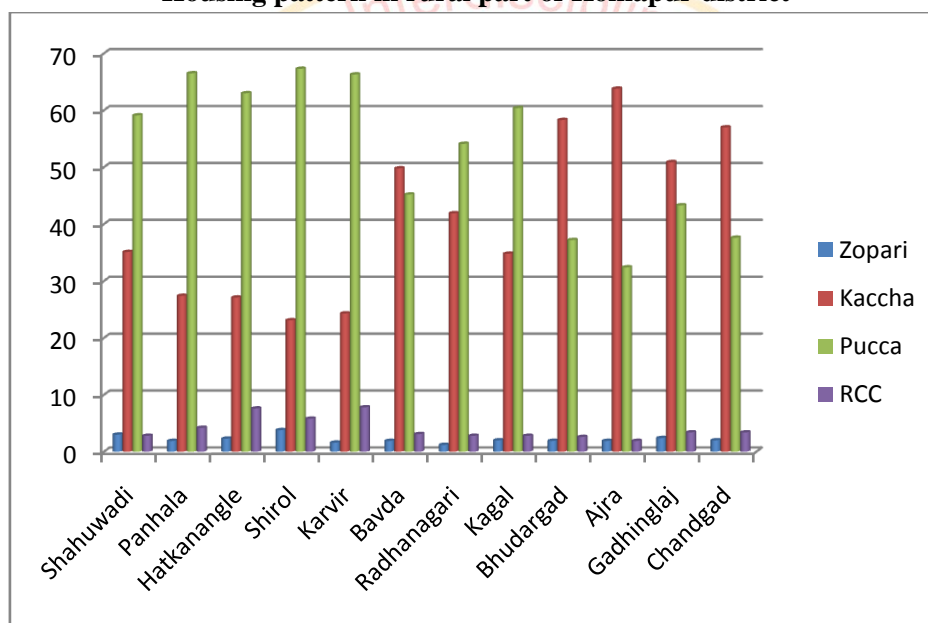
**Table 2: Types of Households in Rural Area of Kolhapur District**

Tehsil	Zopari	Kaccha	Pucca	RCC
Shahuwadi	3	35.1	59.1	2.8
Panhala	1.9	27.4	66.5	4.2
Hatkanangle	2.3	27.1	63	7.6

<b>Shirol</b>	3.8	23.1	67.3	5.8
<b>Karvir</b>	1.6	24.3	66.3	7.8
<b>Bavda</b>	1.9	49.8	45.2	3.1
<b>Radhanagari</b>	1.2	41.9	54.1	2.8
<b>Kagal</b>	2	34.8	60.4	2.8
<b>Bhudargad</b>	1.9	58.3	37.2	2.6
<b>Ajra</b>	1.9	63.8	32.4	1.9
<b>Gadhinglaj</b>	2.4	50.9	43.3	3.4
<b>Chandgad</b>	2	57	37.6	3.4
<b>Dist. Avg.</b>	2.1	36.5	56.6	4.8

*Source: District Census Handbook of Kolhapur District, 2011*

**Housing pattern in rural part of Kolhapur district**



#### **d) RCC House**

RCC house is the special one, having roof, walls and floor all pucca and entire load is on columns, but in case of pucca house, the entire load is on walls rather than on columns.

The rural populations in the entire study area were having only 4.8 per cent RCC houses, and this RCC houses are majority located in Karvir (7.8%) tehsil followed by Hatkanangale (7.6%) and Shirol (5.8%) tehsils where industrial development is more while remaining all tehsils are lying below than district average in RCC house.

#### **Material of Roof**

Roof top is essential to cover the houses from sunlight as well as rainfall. In the rural part of the district 3 per cent roofs are constructed by using Grass/ Bamboo/ Wood. The roof tiles are general material which is used for cover the roof and here 9 per cent houses are covered with handmade tiles whereas 67.4 per cent houses are covered with machine made tiles. Metal sheets are another important material used as roof and 7.7 per cent houses are covered with metal sheets. Now the house is

constructed by using R.C.C. material and near about 10.8 per cent roofs are constructed by using cement Concrete.

**Table 3: Types of Material of Roof in Rural Area of Kolhapur District**

Tehsil	Grass/ Bamboo/ etc.	Plastic	Handmade Tiles	Machine made Tiles	Burnt Brick	Stone/Slate	Metal/ Asbestos sheets	Concrete
Shahuwadi	4.7	0.6	1.8	84.6	0.2	1.5	2.2	4.4
Panhala	2.5	0.5	2.8	72.3	0.2	1.3	10.6	9.8
Hatkanangle	3.9	0.5	7.2	58.7	0.2	1.9	13.8	13.8
Shirol	3.1	0.6	11.4	58.2	0.4	2.4	10.3	13.6
Karvir	1.5	0.5	6.4	65.1	0.2	1.7	10.1	14.5
Bavda	1	0.1	1.2	81.2	0.1	0.9	12.2	3.3
Radhanagari	1	0.1	5.4	78.4	0.1	1	7.8	6.2
Kagal	2.1	0.3	15.5	69.1	0.2	1.4	4.3	7.1
Bhudargad	2.9	0.2	10	74	0.2	1.1	5.2	6.4
Ajra	4.2	0.4	12.3	74.3	0.2	1.4	1.7	5.5
Gadhinglaj	3.1	0.3	19	63.2	0.4	1	2	11
Chandgad	2.3	0.3	14.5	64.3	0.2	1	4.7	12.7
<b>Dist. Avg.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>

*Source: District Census Handbook of Kolhapur District, 2011*

In the tehsil-wise distribution of houses as per type of roof, maximum numbers of houses with Grass or Bamboo roof is observed in Shahuwadi, Hatkanangle and Ajara tehsils and the maximum numbers of roof with Handmade Tiles is found in the Shirol, Kagal, Ajra, Gadhinglaj, Chandgad and Bhudargad tehsils whereas Machine made Tiles are major source of making of roof in all the tehsils in those Shahuwadi, Panhala, Bavda, Radhanagari, Kagal, Bhudargad and Ajra tehsil has maximum numbers in roof constructed by such tiles because they are cheap in price. In case of Metal or Asbestos sheets roof Panhala, Hatkanangle, Karvir, Bavda and Radhanagari tehsils has maximum houses while cement concrete roof are basically found the develop region such as Hatkanangle, Shirol, Karvir as well as Gadhinglaj and Chandgad tehsil which are hilly tehsils. The maximum number of roof with Stone or Slate is observed in the Hatkanangle, Shirol and Karvir tehsils.

As per table 2 highest number of roof is made by Machine made Tiles is in Shahuwadi tehsil whereas roof with Handmade Tiles is found in Gadhinglaj tehsil. In Hatkanangle tehsil Metal sheets roof is highest as compare to other tehsils. Karveer tehsil is develop among the all tehsils therefore roof with cement concrete is found highest in this tehsil whereas Shahuwadi and Ajara tehsils are maximum houses with Grass/ Bamboo/ Wood roof in the district because this are located hilly region where this material is found commonly.

### Material of Floor

Flooring is the general term for a permanent covering of a floor, or for the work of installing such a floor covering. The choice of material for floor covering is affected by factors such as cost, endurance, noise insulation, comfort and cleaning effort. Some types of flooring must not be installed below grade, including laminate and hardwood due to potential damage from moisture.

There are various types of material used for the flooring purpose such as Mud, Wood, Burnt Brick, Stone, Cement and Floor tiles. In the district basically in rural area mainly Mud and cow dung is used for making floor because this is cheapest source as well as easily available in the region. Here 52.6 per cent household has Mud and cow dung flooring whereas 26.2 per cent household has

permanent flooring by using floor tiles. Stone is another important material used for permanent flooring but is rough in nature and in the district 14 per cent households are used stone as a floor their houses.

The district wise distribution of floor material is given in table no. 5.4 where more than 70 per cent of households in Shahuwadi, Bavda, Radhanagari, Bhudargad and Chandgad tehsils uses mud and cow dung for flooring because this tehsils located in hilly region where agriculture and animal husbandry is main activity therefore such kinds of material is easily available whereas tehsils like Shirol, Karvir, Hatkanangle and Gadhinglaj are laying below than district average because this tehsils are developed as compare to other tehsils in the study region.

**Table 4: Types of Material of Floor in Rural Area of Kolhapur District**

Tehsils	Mud	Wood	Burnt Brick	Stone	Cement	Floor tiles
Shahuwadi	75.7	0.3	0.3	3.6	1.9	18.2
Panhala	59.3	0.2	0.3	5.9	3.5	30.8
Hatkanangle	30.8	0.4	0.4	18.6	9.3	40.5
Shirol	30	0.2	0.8	25.5	10.4	33.1
Karvir	48	0.3	0.4	8.6	5.7	37
Bavda	83.7	0.1	0.3	2.1	2.1	11.7
Radhanagari	75.2	0.2	0.3	3.8	2.2	18.3
Kagal	58.4	0.2	0.3	16.2	3.1	21.8
Bhudargad	72	0.2	0.2	4.5	2	21.1
Ajra	63.3	0.2	0.2	18.3	3.2	14.8
Gadhinglaj	40.9	0.3	0.6	39.7	5.3	13.2
Chandgad	68.6	0.2	0.5	1.6	22.2	6.9
Dist. Avg.	52.6	0.2	0.4	14	6.6	26.2

*Source: District Census Handbook of Kolhapur district, 2011*

Floor tile flooring is ranks second in all tehsils in that Hatkanangle tehsil has highest numbers followed by Karveer tehsil with 40.5 per cent and 37 per cent respectively while Panhala and Shirol tehsils has households with floor tiles above district average because in this tehsils urban area is more therefore floor tile as easily available whereas remaining all tehsils are laying below than district average in using floor tiles in their houses.

Stones are also used for flooring where good quality stones are available. In the study region highest numbers of households in Gadhinglaj (39.7%), Shirol (25.5%), Hatkanangle (18.6 %) Ajra (18.3 %) and Kagal (16.2 %) tehsils uses stone for flooring as compare to other tehsils in the study region because many stone mines are present in this tehsils. Cement concrete flooring is also finds in the study region where households in Chandgad (22.2%) tehsils has highest number followed by Shirol (10.4 %) tehsil and remaining all tehsils are laying below than district average in Cement concrete flooring. In the few households are uses Burnt Brick and Wood for the flooring purpose but the per cent of this material is very low as compare to other material.

#### **Dwelling Room:**

A room is treated as a dwelling room if it has walls with a doorway and a roof and should beside and long enough for a person to sleep in, i.e. it should have a length of not less than 2 meters



and a breadth of at least 1.5 meters and a height of 2 meters. A dwelling room would include living room, bedroom, dining room, drawing room, study room, servant's room and other habitable rooms.

In the Kolhapur district maximum numbers of (34.1%) houses are constructed with two rooms whereas households with single room ranks second with 27.9 per cent while 24.5 per cent houses has three rooms. The big houses or bungalows with four rooms or more than four is collectively 13.5 per cent this is basically constructed by persons which has large agriculture land or government servant.

**Table 5: Number of Dwelling Rooms in Rural Area of Kolhapur District**

Tehsils	One room	Two rooms	Three rooms	Four rooms	Five rooms	Six rooms and above
Shahuwadi	28	34.9	28.6	6.1	1.3	1.1
Panhala	21.1	35.1	30.6	8.6	2.4	2.2
Hatkanangle	39.1	33.4	16.4	6.9	2.2	2
Shirol	38.5	33.9	15.8	7.4	2.3	2.1
Karvir	27.6	33.4	24.4	8.8	2.9	2.9
Bavda	23	39.1	28.5	6.6	1.4	1.4
Radhanagari	20.1	34.9	31.7	9.4	2.2	1.7
Kagal	27.2	36.6	25.6	7.7	1.6	1.3
Bhudargad	23.2	33.8	27.7	10.7	2.5	2.1
Ajra	19.5	32.3	31	12.7	2.6	1.9
Gadhinglaj	24	35.8	25.9	9.7	2.5	2.1
Chandgad	20	29.3	26.6	15.5	4.3	4.3
<b>Dist. Avg.</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>

*Source: District Census Handbook of Kolhapur district, 2011*

The maximum numbers of single room houses are observed in Hatkanangle (39.1 %) and Shirol (38.5 %) tehsils followed by Shahuwadi tehsil which is sits above district average and remaining all tehsils are lying below district average. Highest numbers of households with two rooms are located in the Bavada (39.1) tehsil whereas lowest numbers are observed in Chandgad (29.3) tehsil.

A household with three rooms has third rank in all the tehsils where Radhanagari (31.7%) tehsil has maximum and Shirol (15.8 %) tehsil has minimum numbers of three room houses. Bavda, Shahuwadi, Panhala, Radhanagari, Kagal, Bhudargad, Ajra, Gadhinglaj and Chandgad tehsils has utmost numbers of three room houses which is more than district average.

The big houses with four rooms are majorly observed in tehsils like Chandgad (15.5 %), Ajra (12.7%), Bhudargad (10.7%), Gadhinglaj (9.7%) and Radhanagari (9.4%) while Bungalows with five rooms and above are located in few numbers in all tehsils in that Chandgad (4.3 %) tehsil has highest numbers follwed by Karvir (2.9 %), Ajra (2.6 %), Bhudargad (2.5 %) and Gadhinglaj (2.5 %) tehsils because these tehsils are agriculturally developed tehsils where joint family structure is observed.

### Conclusion

As comparative to Maharashtra the size of rural houses of the study area is large. It is found that, study area has mostly tile roofed, unburnt brick walled and mud floored rural houses. The material used for building of wall, roof and floor are highly determined by terrain, rainfall, temperature and economic status of family. The concrete and other pucca houses are mainly observed in central and eastern developed part of the study area. On the other hand, mud floored, tile roofed and



kucha walled rural houses are mostly found in the southern and western part of the study area which is hilly and less developed.

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