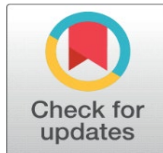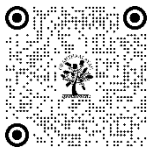# BEAR ATTACKS IN JANGAMHATTI DHANGARWADA: INVESTIGATING CAUSES AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Dr. S.D. Shinde[1] ✉ , Vijay S. Gavade[2] ✉

[1]Department of Geography, Shivaji University Kolhapur
[2]Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Shivaji University Kolhapur

ABSTRACT
The relationship between bear behavior and human activities, which often have negative impacts on both sides, is the main focus of this study on human-bear conflict in Jangmahatti Dhangarwada. The main causes of encounters are habitat loss, competition for resources, and environmental changes that force bears to move into populated areas in search of food or shelter. Such incidents are particularly common during the monsoon season, due to increasing agricultural activities and inadequate sanitation in rural areas. Due to their keen sense of smell, bears are frequently attracted to human settlements by the scent of food. These conflicts are exacerbated by factors such as competition, seasonal scarcity of natural food, and habitat loss. By focusing on regional perspectives and constraints, this study attempts to integrate ecological and social insights into human-bear interactions. The results are intended to provide strategies to enhance coexistence in comparable environments and address conservation issues. Such encounters are generally observed during the months of June and July. If a bear's regular food source becomes scarce due to periodic changes, loss of territory, or hostility, it may wander into villages in search of food in garbage, produce, or animals. Similarly, bears are also attracted to animal dung. Focusing on the frequent attacks on the Dhangarwada settlement and its causes and impacts. Data was collected through interviews, field observations and review of past records to understand bear and human-wildlife interactions. The findings highlight the environmental and socio-economic factors that contribute to conflicts, as well as the vulnerability of local residents. Recommendations to reduce such encounters include community awareness programs and implementation of wildlife management policies.

Keywords: Bear, Conflict, Conservation, Human, Wild Animals

1. INTRODUCTION

Human-Untamed life Struggle is characterized as any communication among people and untamed life that out comes in pessimistic effects social, financial or social life, on the preservation of natural life populaces, or on the climate (WWF (2005). It influences both wild creature and person and furthermore in economy. Individuals lose their yields, animals, property and at times their lives. Creatures, which are now jeopardized or undermined, are many times killed by individuals (Bhatta 2003).The contention among people and wildlife can emerge when human turn of events and extension infringe upon normal living spaces and disturb biological system, compelling natural life to vie for assets or

adjust to new climate . This can bring about human - untamed life clashes, for example, crop harm, domesticated animals predation and attacks on people.
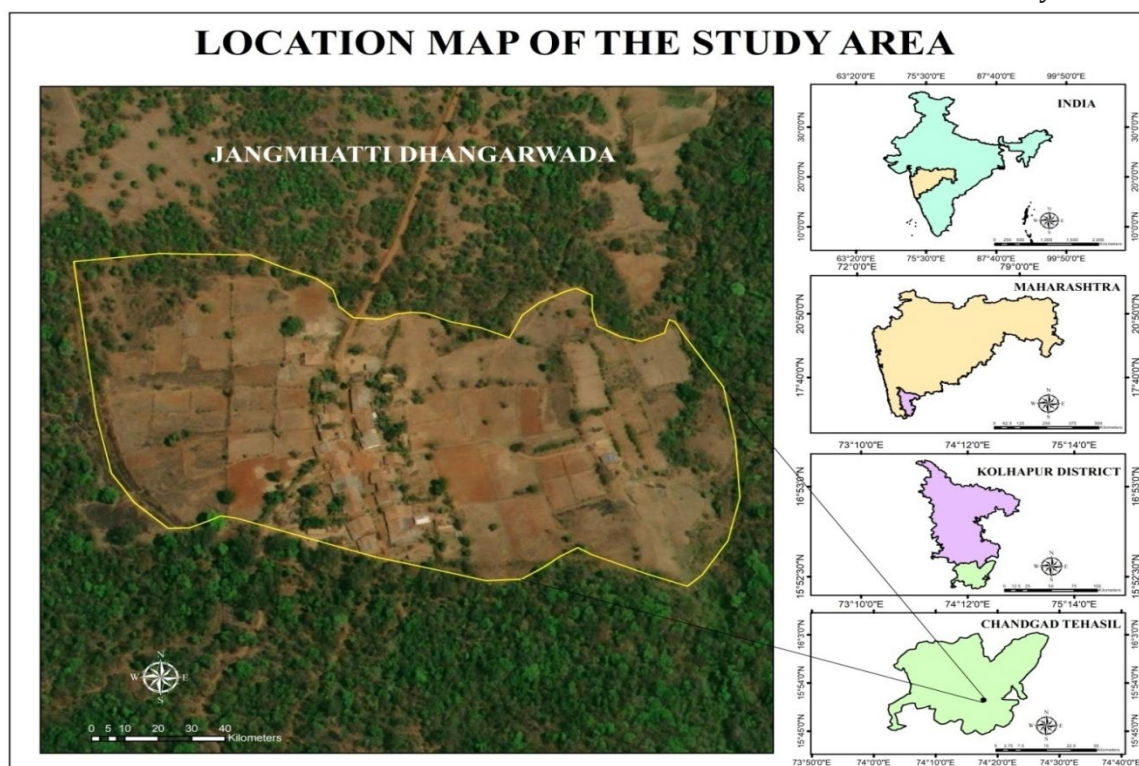
Currently, it can be seen that the effect of urbanization is found in rural areas as well as cities. As a result of Indias expanding populace and improvement , human - wildlife clashes are all the while incceasing.You may notice that in India there are conflicts with elephants, tigers, bears, leopards and wild boars (Rajpurohit and Krausman 2000 , De Fries et al.2010, Can et al.2014, Ratnayeke et al.2014). The brew is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and has been accounted for all through India, involving different living spaces from wet or dry tropical woods to savannas, shrub land, and fields (Garshelis et al.1999, Yoganand et al.2013). Such human wildlife incidents are currently being studied. To understand the conflict between humans and wildlife, it is necessary to study both (Thorn et al. 2012) .Chandgad tehasil is located in the extreme south of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. In this tehasil, bears are found in hilly or valley areas. We directed this review to accumulate dependable data on environmental and social parts of contention including nearby people groups disposition towards bears, which will be helpful in further developing human bear conjunction. This data is likewise expected to give experiences to other area with comparable protection challenges relating to coupled human and normal frameworks.

2. OBJECTIVES

1. To study human-bear conflict in Jangamhatti Dhangarwada area.
2. To Analyze the causes of bear attacks occur frequently in the study area.

3. STUDY AREA

Actually the region selected for the study lies entirely in the Sahyadri range. It is located between 15.9473° N to 74.1886° E. Dhangarwada comes under Jangamhatti Group Gram Panchayat. This Dhangarwada is surrounded by forest. Animal husbandry is the main occupation of these people. He does not own his own land. These people are found in nomadic tribes. His caste is VJNT-D. There is a dirt road to reach this area. The school is from 1st to 5thstd.The life of the people here is very difficult. For livelihood these people go to other's fields as farm laborers. The average temperature of this area is 24°C to 30°C. The South-West Monsoon brings heavy rains during the rainy season. From June to September, the monsoon brings heavy winds and annual rainfall of more than 3,000 millimeters.Winter, summer and monsoon are the three seasons in this region. In recent times, tap water scheme through is running in this place. Also, there is Jangamhatti Dam at this place. Which is used for animals to drink water. The soil here is red in colour and not very useful.

LOCATION MAP OF THE STUDY AREA

4. METHODOLOGY

Field survey was employed in data collection. It specifically employed qualitative research approached where in-depth interviews was applied to seek information from the study community. For the current review, we have essential and auxiliary sources some of which have been for the current review. The essential information for field work has been acquired by visiting and getting into contact with the nearby individuals. Optional information is gathered through forest department, books, magazines, paper, the internet and gazetteers.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Bear Attacked Cases in Jangamhatti Dhangarwada

Sr. No	1	2
Year	2020 – 2021	2022 - 2023
Date Of Attack	7 September 2020	15 February 2022
Dead Or Wounded	Wounded	Wounded
Forest Department Provide The Fund	20000	Pending
The Current Status	Paid	Pending

Source: Patne Forest Department (Chandgad)

The table illustrates how to display data on occurrences, their results, and the forest department's responses. For the first occurrence, the events took place between 2020 and 2021, and for the second incident, between 2022 and 2023. The attack date On September 7, 2020, the first occurrence took place, and on February 15, 2022, the second. There were wounded people in both occurrences, suggesting that there were casualties but no fatalities. The forest department contributed 20,000 rupees for the initial occurrence, which has been listed as paid. Since no payment has been made as of yet, the fund status for the second incident is listed as Pending. The financial assistance was successfully processed and recorded as paid for the first incidence. Pending is the status for the second incident, pending any additional action or justification for the hold-up.

6. ANALYZING WHY BEAR ATTACKS OCCUR FREQUENTLY IN THIS PLACE.

Table 2: Number of Times Bears Visit Jangamhatti Dhangarwada in a Given Years

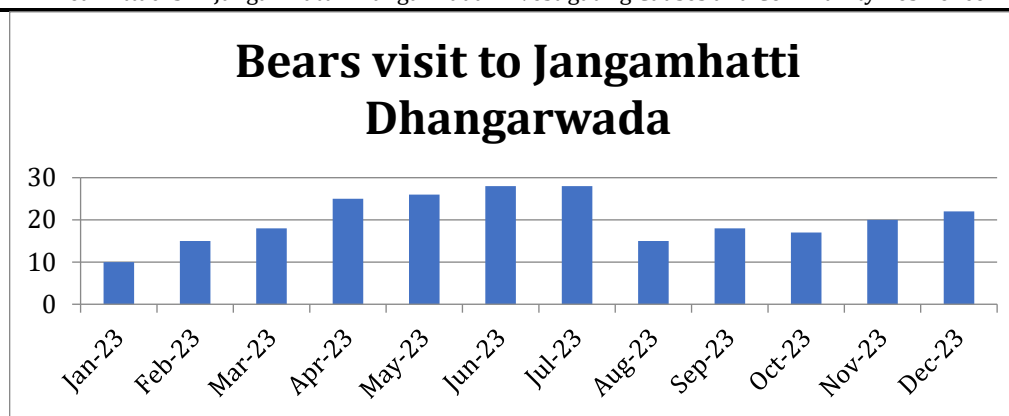| Sr. No.	Months	Frequency Visit
1	January 2023	10
2	February 2023	15
3	March 2023	18
4	April 2023	25
5	May 2023	26
6	June 2023	28
7	July 2023	28
8	August 2023	15
9	September 2023	18
10	October 2023	17
11	November 2023	20
12	December 2023	22

Figure 1: Graph showing number of times Bears visit the community

The visitation frequencies for each month in 2023 are shown in the graph. The number of Bear's visits climbed consistently from January to July, peaking at 28 visits in June and July before declining in August. After a sharp decline to 15 visits, there were some variations in the months that followed. Following a dip in August, the numbers saw a minor uptick, culminating in 22 visits in December. Anomalies: The April–July visitation rise points to a time of increased activity. At the same time, it rains a lot throughout this time. Bears also occasionally visit the town to seek refuge. Bears also visit the town during this time to consume jackfruits that decay.

According to the persons interviewed for this study, raising livestock is their primary job, which requires them to take the animals to the forest to graze. In the meantime, both people and other animals are attacked by wild animals in the forest. It was also revealed during the interview that a leopard had devoured fifty goats two years prior, on January 15, 2021, according to Mr. Dadu Bhagoji Shelake (Age 68). Residents of this settlement frequently have to deal with such significant incidents. According to these residents, bears prowl throughout this community. When Mr. Tanaji Manu Shelake (28 years old) went to empty the water, a bear unexpectedly attacked him. He fled in the direction of the settlement after saving his life. It was noted by those contacted for this study that the bear was subsequently chased out of the forest by the settlers. An animal that enjoys eating dirt is a bear. To put it another way, animal husbandry is a business in these communities, which is why cow pee and animal dung are discovered discarded close to the community. Once the animal excrement breaks down, it is consumed by the bears. Additionally, keep in mind that the ferns ripen and decay from April to August. When they arrive here, conflict is evident. Although they are uncommon, bear assaults on people can happen for a number of reasons. Risks can be reduced and such interactions can be avoided by being aware of the causes.

7. REASONS FOR THE BEAR ATTACK ON THE COMMUNITY

1. **SHOCK EXPERIENCES:** When terrified, bears may pursue, especially if the target is nearby and the bear feels ensnared or threatened. The possibilities are astounding to a bear while climbing in dense woods or areas with limited deceivability.

2. **PROTECTING WHELPS:** Mother bears, particularly grizzlies, are very protective of their young. In the unlikely event that a human approaches too closely, even unintentionally, the mother bear may see this as a threat and attack.

3. **GUARDED RESPONSE:** A bear may attack to protect its territory or its food supply, such as a berry cluster or cadaver. For grizzlies and other local animals, this is more typical.

4. **FOOD-CONDITIONED BEARS:** Bears may use force to obtain food if they have grown accustomed to it. Bears are drawn to improperly stored food or trash cans, increasing the likelihood of a fight. A bear may occasionally view a human as prey due to its ruthless behavior. This is an unusual occurrence, but more typical for mountain bears.

5. **HARMED OR WIPED OUT BEARS:** In times of pain or suffering, a harmed or wiped out bear may behave violently.

6. **INCITEMENT:** Actions such as throwing objects at bears, getting too close, or trying to associate can provoke an attack.

7. **DOG ENCOUNTERS:** By yapping or chasing the bear, a dog can provoke a bear attack, which may then target the dog and its proprietor.

7. COMMUNITY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS CONFLICT

We questioned the elderly men and ladies who lived in the homes because it was a Tuesday when we visited this community. It was used to present the information. After evaluating both victims and non-victims, we concluded that they merely sought our assistance. We asked the residents of this settlement questions while experimenting with the local tongue. Bear struggles are a daily occurrence for the local population. Their daily pay is also impacted by this. Officials from the forest department said that since wild animals cannot be hurt in any way, local actions can be made.

THE COMMUNITY HAVE STATED SOME OF THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES EMPLOYED TO REDUCED THE RISK OF BEAR ATTACKS:

When trekking, make noise to keep bears from being startled.
Know how to use bear spray and keep it on hand.
 When camping, keep food and trash in a secure location.
Bears should never be approached, and cubs should never be approached.
Attacks on groups are less frequent than on lone hikers, therefore go in groups.

MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICT (HBC):

Altering the perception of bears.
Do not assume that a bear is bad, even if it attacks a human.
Learning   how to protect oneself in the event of a bear attack.
To shock the bear, a basic electrical barrier should be placed close to the habitat.
Maintaining the settlement's guidelines for how to get along with one another can be
Beneficial in the event of a crisis. For this, the neighbor network must be strong.

8. CONCLUSION

Concentrating on this, one understands that the assault on people is more hazardous than the deficiency of harvests. The fundamental methodology to direct the HBC proposed by the respondent is sun powered fencing, wire net and bio fencing and utilization of present day ICT devices to drive away the meddling bears. The study found that better land-use planning, the creation of wildlife corridors, the use of non-lethal deterrents, and raising public awareness are all necessary. The specific area and foster methodologies to limit or forestall such struggles. Neighborhood people group can likewise partake in conceiving measures to decrease this contention. Way to deal with tracking down compelling arrangement. Making more safeguarded regions and support zones. Bear attacks in Jangamhatti Dhangarwada illustrate the delicate balance that must be achieved between human activities and animal conservation. Even while the situation is concerning, the inhabitants' resilience and inventiveness, combined with outside assistance, provide hope for a peaceful coexistence. By addressing the core causes and developing a conservation-focused mindset, it is feasible to foster a symbiotic relationship between people and animals while also ensuring their safety and well-being. This delicate balance can be further improved by initiatives such as wildlife corridors, habitat restoration projects, and community education programs, which lessen conflict and create a better awareness of bears' ecological significance.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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