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TABLE OF CONTENT

Sr. No.	Name of Author	Title of Paper	Page No.
1	Dr. Samadhan S. Mane	Presuppositions And Social Media: Peculiar Use Of English Language In The Indian Context	1 - 4
2	Dr. Patil Popat Devidas	Literature and Human Values	5 - 8
3	Dr. Sandeep Sambhaji Dhore	The Role Of Political Dimensions Of Education In Ngugi's <i>Weep Not, Child</i>	9 - 12
4	Dr. Vinaya Ashok Patil	Green Library: A Sustainable Approach to Libraries in the Modern Era	13 - 17
5	Dr. D. K. Kamble	Behind the Facade: Reassessing Individualism in Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i>	18 - 20
6	Dr. Lingade Vilas Bhimrao	Impact of Religious Tourism of Shri Vitthal Temple in Pandharpur City: A Geographical Perspective	21 - 29
7	Dr. Sathe Dhananjay Tukaram	Racial Discrimination and Quest for Identity in Lorraine Hansberry's <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	30 - 33
8	Mr. Dhananjay Shivaji Waghadare	Reflection of Humanism in Selected Short Stories of O. Henry	34 - 35
9	Mr. Kadam Rahul Shatrughna	A Contemporary Relevance of Kautilya's Political Thoughts	36 - 39
10	Miss. Samata Anil Jagtap	The Price of Freedom: Business, Class and Morality in Adiga's <i>The White Tiger</i>	40 - 43
11	Mr. Sanjay Sahebrao Jagadale	Truth beyond Orthodoxy: Identity and Universalism in Rabindranath Tagore's ' <i>Gora</i> '	44 - 47
12	Ms. Kirti P. Bhoite Dr. Jyoti Bhabal	E-learning Initiatives by the Government of India and the Role of Academic Libraries in Supporting E-Learning	48 - 56
13	Sarika Shedage Dr. D. B. Nalawade	Micro-Enterprises as Catalysts for Rural Development in the Tarali River Basin, Maharashtra	57 - 66
14	Mr. Vitthal Gangaram Shinde	Reflection of Social Norms in Ruth Rendell's Mystery Fiction	67 - 73
15	Dashrath Ajinath Valkunde	Feeding the Soul: Literature as a Moral Compass in Bhabani Bhattacharya's <i>So Many Hungers!</i>	74 - 77
16	Mr. Salunke Nandkumar Laxman Ms. Hemade Neelima Namdeo	Transitions in Libraries upto Artificial Intelligence and its Application	78 - 81
17	Mr. Nilesh Tulashidas Phase Dr. Rajendra Satyashil Ponde	Liberty, Equality and Fraternity: A Literary Exploration of Revolutionary Ideals in Selected Texts	82 - 87

Sr. No.	Name of Author	Title of Paper	Page No.
18	Prof. Sawant Ashwini Arjun	Dalit Voices in English: The Autobiographical Resistance to Caste Hierarchy	88 - 90
19	Supriya Subhash Kasliwal Dr. Kulkarni Vinod Ramakant	The Role of Personalization in Building Customer Loyalty in Traditional Grocery Stores	91 - 98
20	Shubhangi Hanamantarao Pol	Impact of Global Warming on Biodiversity- Remedies and Reasons	99 - 103
21	Mahesh M. Lohar	Indian Democracy and Election Commission	104 - 108
22	Ajit Arjun Pawar Mahesh M. Lohar	Indian Governance	109 - 111
23	Namdev V. Telore Prakash S. Shinde Yuvraj U. Kadam Rohan H. Jadhav	Socio-Economic and Demographic Analysis of Tourists at UNESCO Asia – Pacific Awardee Kinhai Tourist Centre, Maharashtra	112 - 120
24	Dr. Smt. Sunita Mohan Chavan Miss. Aarti Shankar Himane	Sustainable Development of Agriculture in Satara District: A Geographical Study	121 - 124
25	Prof. Yashoda B. Labade	Koha: An Open Source Library Management Software	125 - 129
26	Mr. Vishnu S. Waghore	Role of Technological Innovations in Improving Library Services	130 - 133
27	Mr. Santosh Kuldalik Jadhav	Reclaiming the Past: Personal Narratives of Slavery in Toni Morrison's Beloved	134 - 139
28	Mr. Baban Kumbhar Mrs. Minakshi Baban Kumbhar	Comparative Study Of Library Automation Softwares: Slim21 And Koha	140 - 145
29	Deokule Tanaji Sambhaji	Nationalism in Rabindranath Tagore's <i>Gora</i> : A Critical Analysis	146 - 154
30	Mrs. Jagtap Sita Chandrashekhar	Erosion of Human Values in J. M. Coetzee's <i>Disgrace</i>	155 - 158
31	Ms. Pai Vandana Narasimha	Consumers Perception and Attitude Towards Organic Food Choice	159 - 167
32	Mr. Ulhas Bhaskar Sonar	Human Values and National Identity in Post-Independence Indian Cinema	168 - 170
33	Dipali Sadashiv Suryawanshi Dr. Chandrakant Ramnath Mandlik	The Theme of Motherhood In Edna O'Brien's <i>The Country Girls</i>	171 - 173
34	Dr. Kshirsagar Sanjay Ramchandra	Economics of Information	174 - 176
35	Mr. Kiran Ganpat Kumbhar	Modern Wars: Destruction of Global Heritage and Human Values	177 - 181
36	Prof. Dr. Shinde S. R.	Status of Minimum Support Price (MSP) in India	182 - 184
37	Mr. Maruti Sambhaji Wagh	A Study On Livestock Trading Practices At Different Market Committees Of Satara District	185 - 190



Sustainable Development of Agriculture in Satara District: A Geographical Study

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Abstract:

Agriculture plays a crucial role in India's sustainable development journey, encompassing economic growth, food security, environmental protection, and rural livelihoods. Sustainable agricultural development is vital for ensuring food security, environmental conservation, and economic growth in rural regions like Satara District, Maharashtra. This paper explores the current status, challenges, and future opportunities for achieving agricultural sustainability in Satara district. It focuses on climate-resilient practices, efficient resource utilization, policy interventions, and investment trends. Using a mix of field data, policy analysis, and stakeholder interviews, the study reveals how integrated efforts by farmers, government agencies, and private players can pave the way for sustainable agricultural transformation in the district. The data thus collected through primary and secondary sources. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the essential role of agriculture in fostering sustainable development.

Keywords: Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development, Water Conservation, Crop Diversification, Climate Adaptation

Introduction:

Agriculture is the primary livelihood for a significant portion of the population in Satara District, which exhibits diverse agro-climatic conditions. However, unsustainable practices, climate variability, and depleting water resources have increasingly threatened the agricultural economy. Agriculture, the primary source of food and livelihood for billions worldwide, has historically been humanity's bedrock. The concept of sustainable agricultural development, which balances productivity with ecological and social well-being, has become critical. This paper examines how Satara District is evolving through environmentally conscious practices, technological interventions, and policy initiatives aimed at long-term sustainability.

Study Area:

The Satara district lies at the western limit of the Deccan table and in southern Maharashtra. District is located in the western part of Maharashtra and comprises 11 talukas. It includes varied geography from the Sahyadri hill ranges in the west (Mahabaleshwar, Wai) to the drought-prone plains in the east (Khatav, Man, Koregaon). The district grows a variety of crops, including sugarcane, rice, jowar, bajra, and horticultural crops like pomegranate and strawberries. Rain-fed farming predominates in the eastern belt, making it vulnerable to water scarcity and climate stress.