

## *Dhamdha – The City of Ponds*

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### **ABSTRACT**

Dhamdha is located in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh's Durg district. In Chhattisgarh, Dhamdha is renowned for its abundant natural water resources. A pond is a tiny, artificially created body of still water on land that forms when water pools inside a depression. Urbanization was destroying water, a natural resource, day by day. This region's fish farmers started using pond culture systems for carp culture. Additionally, numerous ponds in the Durg area are used for fish farming, livelihood, etc..

### **INTRODUCTION**

**T**he most water-rich state in central India is Chhattisgarh, where 1.64 lakh hectares of water are thought to be suitable for fish farming (Bhendarkaret *al.*, 2017). In the state of Chhattisgarh, fishing is acknowledged as a significant industry with the potential to be both an entrepreneurial venture and a source of revenue (Dhritlahre *et al.*, 2023). Chhattisgarh is an inland state of India that ranks 5th in fish seed production and 6th in fish production in the country. The Dhamdha, a block which is located in the Durg

District of Chhattisgarh State 38 kilometers from Durg, on the Durg-Bemetara road. A total number of 1133 ponds are situated in the dhamdha block It is a historical, religious, and culturally rich kingdom belonging to the Gondwana dynasty. Which is renowned for having a distinct identity. Another name for it is "Talabo Ki Nagari" Or "City of Ponds". The Gond king built 126 ponds in this tiny block. The purpose of this pond is to protect the fort from enemy attack and for water conservation purposes. One kori is equivalent

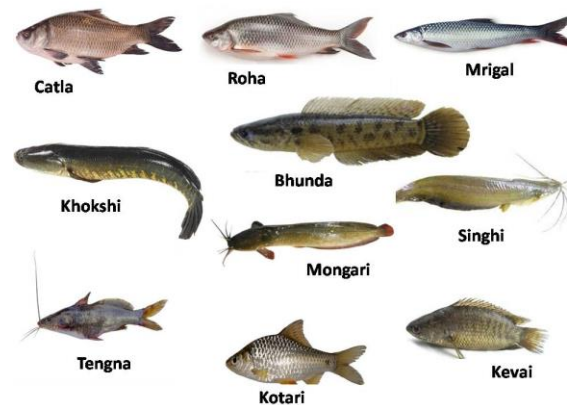
to twenty, so six kori is one hundred and twenty, and one agar is one, so it becomes six total is one hundred and twenty-six taria is the pond, which means kingdom of one hundred and twenty-six pond. This is also known as "Chhai Kori Chhai Agar Taria Ka Gadh" in Chhattisgarh. Although safety was the primary reason for building this pond, people soon began using it for their daily needs. They raise fish and lotuses in the pond to meet the water demand and to make money. However, because of urbanization, only twenty-six ponds remain in Dhamdha now.

### Fisheries in Dhamdha

The fish production and seed production of Durg district in 2022-23 is 32,511 metric tons and 5787 lakh standard fry respectively (DoF, CG 2023). In Dhamdha, generally, carp culture with a pond culture system is prevalent. The most common resource for fish culture is ponds. The Fisheries Polytechnic was established at the village Rajpur, Dhamdha, District-Durg during the session 2020-21 under the esteemed Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya, Durg Chhattisgarh. This is the state's first Fisheries Polytechnic to strengthen education and services in the field of Fisheries Science to develop field-level technicians to support the small and marginal farmers of Chhattisgarh state and also two years diploma in fisheries science degree provided. It is very important role in youth development in the fisheries sector of the state. Near the Dhamdha, Shivanth River, the longest tributary of the Mahanadi River, is also flowing which is used for catching fish by local fishermen for livelihood. Traditional fishing methods like gill netting, drag netting, and handline are commonly used for harvesting of fishes from the village ponds. Post-harvest techniques for preservation such as icing of fish, smoking of fish, drying of fish etc. are commonly used.

**Table 1: Major local fish species present in the pond of Dhamdha**

Scientific name	Local name
<i>Catla catla</i>	Catla
<i>Labeo rohita</i>	Roha
<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>	Mrigal
<i>Puntius sp.</i>	Kotari
<i>Clarius batrachus</i>	Mongari
<i>Heteroneustes fossilis</i>	Singhi
<i>Mystus sp.</i>	Tengna
<i>Channa punctatus</i>	Bhunda
<i>Channa striatus</i>	Khokshi
<i>Anabas testudineus</i>	Kevai



**Fig 1. Local Fish species present in the Pond of Dhamdha Village**

**Table 2: Major Pond of Dhamdha**

Name of pond	Area (Hectare)	Name of pond	Area (Hectare)
Thakur Talab	1.012	Budha Sagar	5.702
Rani Talab	1.068	Gautnin Talab	0.908
Raja Talab	1.594	Purana Talab	3.419
Teli Dabri	1.823	Naya Talab	1.584
Choukhadiya Talab	0.670	Dani Talab	1.235

(Source – DoF, Chhattisgarh)

### CONCLUSION

The significance of ponds at the village level was emphasized in this article. Even though

this region is well-known for its water resources, there were other sources of revenue outside fishing, which was not overly utilized as a source of income. Fisheries-related knowledge is lacking. Fishing department-wise training center development, farmer and fisherman training, awareness campaigns, the development of fisherman welfare, strengthening the cooperative society, and constructing fisheries federations under the Dhamdha block are all necessary.

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