

## **Research Articles**

### **Pattern of Population Distribution : A Geographical Study on Solapur District (M.S.)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The distribution of population refer to the spatial arrangement of human number in relation to the physical and economic resources of the region. In this paper an attempt is made to study, the population distribution pattern in the Solapur District. There are large concentration of population in towns, which have attracted large number of people from the villages in the study area. The regions of fertile soils accompanied with irrigation facilities, show the population concentration. Whereas upland and hilly regions of the district is sparsely populated North Solapur, Barshi, Pandharpur and Akkalkot tahsils have marked thick population. These tahsils have accessibility of good transport network. The railway line passing through Mohol, North Solapur, Akkalkot toward Bijapur and Chennai on the one hand, Kurduwadi toward Mumbai on the other is responsible for the highly thick population in the district. Similarly along the national highway no. 09 Solapur-Hyderabad and second Solapur-Bijapur have much thicker population in the district. Out of the total population in the district, more than 24% population was concentrated in North-

Solapur Tahsil, while below 5% population was recorded in Mangalweda tahsil in 2001 Census.

**Keyword :** Distribution of Population, Regional Variation, Location, Quotient, Solapur District.

### **Introduction:**

In Solapur District, according to 2001 Census, 4.25% of the people live of the state of Maharashtra population is unevenly distributed in the district. The population distribution in the district is influenced by relief, usability of land, pattern of transport network and nature of economic activities. Due to impact of relief the population is very thin, along the hilly regions and along the foothills of the district. Whereas the valleys of the major rivers i.e. the Bhima, Nira, Bhogawati and Maan have relatively thicker population. The usually of land, which turn in fluce by the nature of relief has enhanced this population distribution pattern further.

### **Objective :**

- i. To highlight on the spatio-temporal change in population distribution of the study region.
- ii. To study the tashil wise variation in population distribution.

### **Database and Research Methodology :**

The study is based on secondary data, collected from census publications, covering the period from 1981 to 2001. The work is carried out at tahsil level. The collected statistics of population has been processed and tabulated. The location quotients method is applied to determine the ratio between percentage of population and percentage of area of the district.

### **Study Area :**

The district of Solapur is one of the most important district of Maharashtra state, both in of area and population, it is lies entirely in the Bhima basin. The district of Solapur is located between 17010' North to 18032' North latitudes and 74042' east to 76015' east longitude. The east-west length of the district is about 200 Km. and

north-south width is about 150 Km. The total geographical area of the Solapur district is about 14895 Sq. Km. with a population of 38,55,383 according to 2001 census. Karmala is the largest tahsil in area and the smallest is North Solapur tahsil. The Solapur district tentatively constitutes 4.88% of area and 4.51% population of the Maharashtra state. The district of Solapur is well defined to its west as well as to its east by the scraps of Phaltan and Osmanabad Plateau respectively. On the basis of physical setup the district is divided into three major physiographic divisions, (i) the hilly region (ii) the Plateau region (iii) The plain Region. The Bhima is the most significant river flowing through the district. Whereas Nira and Maan are right Bank tributaries and the Sina is the left bank tributary of the Bhima. Broadly the climate of the district is monsoonal in nature.

### **Result and Discussion :**

There is close correlation between relief, quality of land, patterns of transportation network etc. and spatial distribution of population. Table 1 shows that the total population of the district was 26.10 Lakhs in 1991, as against 38.49 Lakhs in 2001. There was recorded 47.48% increase in population growth, since 1981 to 2001. In the year 1981, out of eleven Tahsils.

**Table 1**

**Distribution of Population in Solapur District (1881-2001)**

<b>Tahsil</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>
North Solapur	615608	784361	960803
Barshi	276757	302158	340831
Akkalkot	205510	262872	290037
South Solapur	151031	187157	210774
Mohol	158630	202900	252526
Mangalweda	117301	148893	171261
Pandharpur	237680	317348	402707
Sangola	182063	230246	272077
Malshiras	282300	350346	422600
Karmala	165714	194600	233316
Mada	207550	250176	292611

District	2610144	3231057	3849543
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Source : Socio-Economic Review of Solapur District (1981, 1991, 2001)

Five tahsils are marked below 2 lakhs population namely karmala, Mohol Sangola, Magalweda and South Solapur tahsils. While 2 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs population was recorded in Madha, pandharpur and Akkalkot tahsils in 1981; Above 2.5 lakhs population was registered in Barshi, North-Solapur, Malshiras tahsils in the same year. Whereas, in the 2001 census below 2 lakhs population was noticed only in Mangalweda tahsil, about 2 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs population was experienced in Karmala and South Solapur tahsils, and above 2.5 lakhs population was observed in Madha, Barshi and North Solapur. Mohol, Pandharpur, Malshiras, Sangola and Akkalkot tahsils. The impact of industrialization and consequent urbanization on the distribution of population, clearly reveals therefore the urbanized tahsils like North Solapur, Barshi, Pandharpur and Akkalkot have much thick population, the valleys of the major rivers like Bima, Nira, Bhogavit etc have relatively thicker population.

**Table 2**

Tashil	Population in % 1981	Population in % 2001	Area in %	Location Quotient 1981	Location Quotient 2001	Difference Between 1981-2001
North Solapur	23.58	24.96	5.00	4.72	4.99	0.27
Barshi	10.60	8.85	9.96	1.06	0.86	-0.17
Akkalkot	7.87	7.47	9.32	0.84	0.81	-0.03
South Solapur	5.79	5.48	8.02	0.72	0.68	-0.04
Mohol	6.08	6.56	9.45	0.64	0.69	-0.04
Mangalweda	4.49	4.51	7.71	0.59	0.58	-0.01
Pandharpur	9.50	10.46	8.75	1.04	1.20	0.16
Sangola	6.98	7.07	10.41	0.67	0.68	0.01
Malshiras	10.81	10.98	10.22	1.06	1.01	-0.05
Karmala	6.35	6.06	10.80	0.59	0.56	-0.03
Mada	7.95	7.60	10.36	0.77	0.73	-0.04
District	100	100	100	1.15	1.17	0.02

### **Location Quotients :**

Location quotients means the ratio between percentage of population and percentage of area. Table 2 show the location quotient for different tahsils of Solapur district for the year 1981 and 2001. The highest value of location quotient is recorded in north-Solapur tahsil, which is highly urbanized and represent the values of 4.72% for the year 1991 and 4.99% for the year 2001. It indicates high concentration of population in north Solapur tahsil between 1981 to 2001. Whereas, Karmala tahsil registered minimum lowest values of location quotient. During last two decades the value varies from tahsil to tahsil, depending upon the economic activities. The higher values of location quotients concentrate the high degree of economic activities and lowest the value of location quotients represent the least concentration of economic activities in such tahsil.

### **Conclusion :**

Population is unevenly distributed in the district because of the Physiography, pattern of transport network, nature of economic activities etc. Due to the constrain of relief, the population is found very thin along the hilly regions and the foot hills area of the district. The valleys of the major rivers i.e. the Bhima Bhogavati etc have relatively thicker population. The impact of industrialization and consequent urbanization the distribution of population is noticed in North Solapur, Barshi, Pandharpur and Akkalkot tahsils have thick population.

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