



## FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF URBAN CENTRES IN MAHARASHTRA

**Dr. R. P. Shinde**

Vasantrao Naik Govt. Institute of Arts, Social Sciences, Nagpur.

### ABSTRACT:

*Since independence India in particular Maharashtra has made progress in different sectors of economy as a result in the last few decades the industrial-scientific development led to an amazingly accelerated rate of urban population increase in the state. The present urban population of Maharashtra (2001 Census) accounts for 41100980 persons, which is 12.8 times heavier than the same in 1901.. Today Maharashtra is the second most urbanised state in the country after Tamilnadu. The typical lop-sided, top-heavy urban pattern is prevalent in Maharashtra, this is mainly due to the highly polarized nature of industrial development, which can be clearly seen in the urbanization scheme of Maharashtra. Generally urban growth is linked with non-primary activities. In present paper rapid urbanization and the functional characteristics of urban centres are discussed.*

**KEYWORDS:** Urbanization, lop-sided, urban pattern,

polarized.

### INTRODUCTION:-

R. Singh (1989) has stated that after independence benefits of development activities were not adequate for all classes of society and regions resulting into regional disparities and social inequalities. Because of such pro-urban development planning, social inequalities, unbearable rural poverty, low agricultural productivity, lack of irrigation facilities etc. massive youth and semi-literate landless agricultural labourers, peasant migration occurs from marginalized rural areas directly to country's largest and over congested metropolises, often bypassing small towns and cities and district headquarters. This heavy rural to urban migration has influence the functional characteristics of urban centres in Maharashtra. The percentage of main workers engaged in each of these groups to total main workers is worked out for each urban centre and accordingly the functional structure is determined

### DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The study is based on the secondary data. The main source of data is census of India 2011. The seventeen industrial categories of main workers have been grouped into six broad groups representing six main functions. These are primary, mining, and industrial, manufacturing, transport and service. The percentage of main workers engaged in each of these groups to total main workers is worked out for each urban centre and accordingly the functional structure is determined (census 2001)

### FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE OF URBAN CENTRES

Table 1 shows the predominant functional structure of urban centers in the state in 2001. The seventeen industrial categories of main workers have been grouped into six broad groups

representing six main functions. These are primary, mining, industrial, manufacturing, transport and service. The percentage of main workers engaged in each of these groups to total main workers is worked out for each urban center and accordingly the functional structure is determined on the principles envisaged below:-

- If one group constitutes 40 percent or more to the total main workers, it is designated as mono-functional urban center i.e. primary or industrial or mining etc.
- If the percentage is less than 40 percent, then the next predominant group is taken into account and if the total of these two comes to 60 percent or more the urban centre is treated as bi-functional i.e. industry-cum-service or mining-cum-primary etc.
- If the total percentage of the first two predominant groups is less than 60 percent then the third group is also considered and such urban centers are designated as multifunctional i.e. industry-cum-service-cum-commercial. (Census of India - 2001)

There are five urban centers in the state, which are mono-functional in character. Of these four are industrial centers. Among these Bhiwandi has the highest percentage (74.16%) of main workers engaged in industries. This is followed by Melagon (54.73%), Ichalkaranji (54.22%) and Pimpri Chinchwad (40.73%), Navghar-Manikpur is commercial centre (41.55%). Nine urban centers are bi-functional in character, of these seven i.e. Greater Mumbai, Virar, Nalasopara, Thane, Kalyan-Dombivali, Ulhasnagar, Mira-Bhayandar are industrial-cum-commercial centers while Wardha and Satara are commercial-cum-service centers. (Table 1

**Table 2.6: Functional structure of urban centers - Maharashtra (2001)**

Sr. No.	Functional structure of urban center	Urban centers
1.	Industrial centers	Malegaon (M.Cl.), Bhiwandi (M.Cl.), Pimpri Chinchwad (M.Corp.), Ichalkaranji (M.Cl.)
2.	Commercial center	Navghar-Manikpur (M.Cl.)
3.	Industrial-cum-Commercial centers	Greater Mumbai (M.Corp.), Virar (M.Cl.), Nalasopara (M.Cl.), Thane (M.Corp.), Kalyan-Dombivili (M.Corp.), Ulhasnagar (M.Corp.), Mira-Bhayandar (M.Cl.)
4.	Commercial-cum-Service centers	Wardha (M.Cl.), Satara (M.Cl.)
5.	Industrial-cum-Commercial-cum-Service centers	Nashik (M.Corp.), Navi Mumbai (M.Corp.), Ambarnath (M.Cl.), Panvel (M.Cl.), Ahamadnagar (M.Cl.), Sangli-Miraj Kupwad (M.Corp.)
6.	Commercial-cum-Service-cum-Industrial center	Dhule (M.Cl.), Jalgaon (M.Cl.), Akola (M.Cl.), Achalpur (M.Cl.), Amravati (M.Corp.), Nagpur (M.Corp.), Gondiya (M.Cl.), Chandrapur (M.Cl.), Yavatmal (M.Cl.), Nanded-Waghala (M.Corp.), Parbhani (M.Cl.), Jalna (M.Cl.), Aurangabad (M.Corp.), Pune (M.Corp.), Latur (M.Cl.), Barshi (M.Cl.), Kolhapur (M.Corp.), Bid (M.Cl.), Bhusawal (M.Cl.)

Source :- Census of India - 2001, Economic Tables, B Series Maharashtra - City Table Code - B0104

Twenty five urban centers have a multi-functional structure. Of these six are industrial-cum-commercial-cum-service centres (Nashik, Navi Mumbai, Sangli-Miraj, Ambarnath, Panvel, Ahmadnagar). Bhusaval is commercial-cum-transport-cum-service centre, while Dhule, Jalgaon, Akola, Achalpur, Amravati, Nagpur, Gondia, Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Nanded-Waghala, Parbhani, Jalna, Aurangabad, Pune, Latur, Barshi, Kolhapur, Bid are commercial-cum-service-cum industrial centres.

In the urban centers of Maharashtra 13.6 million laborer are engaged in secondary and tertiary sectors which is quite high. In spite of these there is a tremendous imbalance in the distribution of the laborers across the districts in the state .

Today the Mumbai-Pune-Nashik industrial triangle is the most important and significant in the state. The three urban centres (Pune, Nashik and Greater Mumbai) and the urban centers like Virar, Nalasopara, Navghar-Manikpur, Bhiwandi, Mira-Bhayandar, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivali, Ulhasnagar, Ambarnath, Pimpri Chinchwad located in the fringe areas of Mumbai and Pune account for 82.18 percent of the total main workers in urban centers of Maharashtra. Greater Mumbai alone accounts for 58.61 percent.

## CONCLUSION

The urban centers in Maharashtra with population above 1, 00,000 have a strong industrial base. However, the function is highly localized as most of the urban centres where it is significant are located in the Mumbai-Pune-Nashik belt. In fact urban centres of Mumbai, Pune and Nashik account for nearly 67.27 percent industrial employment in the state, and when the urban centers in the vicinity of Mumbai are included this increases to 87 percent.

Commercial and service functions are well represented in all urban centers and account for 30.70% of the workers. In spite of this, urban centers of Mumbai (along with urban centers in its vicinity), Pune and Nashik account for 83.29 percent of the commercial sector workers and 79.43 percent of the service sector workers of the state. From the ongoing discussion it is clear that in all functional categories Mumbai-Pune-Nashik urban center dominate the employment (87%) in the state.

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