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STUDY OF POPULATION GROWTH, ITS TREND AND COMPOSITION
(Case study of Solapur District)

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ABSTRACT

As per the census 1991 the district stood 4th in size and 7th in population in the state. Nearly one-thirds of the population in the district was urban while the state had two-fifths of its population urban which means the urbanization in the district is not at par with the state and remained more rural than urban. The Majrewadi was the most populated village (35,258 persons) while Aktol was the smallest village (19 persons). In terms of sex ratio, the district was at par with the state with 934 females for every 1000 males.

KEYWORDS: *urbanization ,* demographic trends.
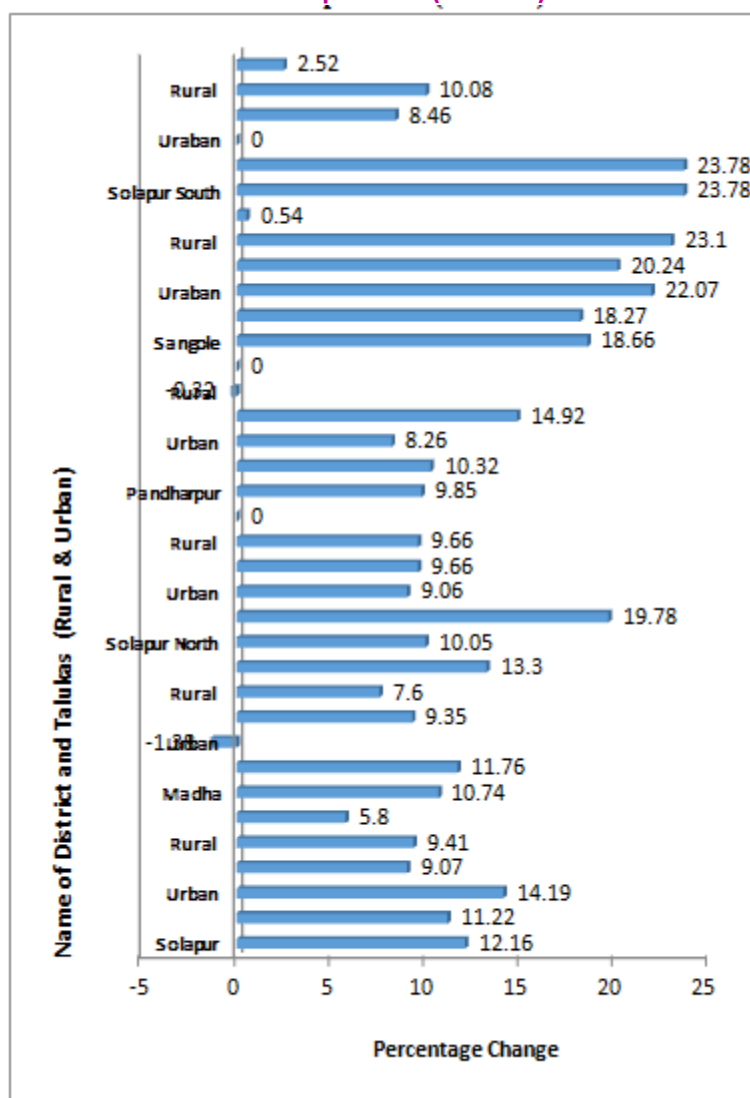
INTRODUCTION:-

However, for the better comprehension of demographic trends four categories of age intervals are considered such as (i) children up to 4 years; (ii) children 5-14 years (school going); (iii) 15-59 years (working population); and (iv) 60+ years (ageing population). The state and the district population across these four age categories depict the district has higher proportion of population as compared to the state averages. In the total population, considering child population as a capital for the forthcoming workforce in the decades to come, Solapur district is better placed than the state. If child population is considered as additional demographic pressure on the growing economy, the district is lagging behind and should look for strengthening the population control measures. The proportion of children (0-4 years) is 8.33 and 8.74 per cent in the state as a whole and district respectively. There are rural urban disparities in the spread of population in this age category. The proportion of children is more in this group in rural areas than in the urban (see table 7) which holds good both for the state and the district.

Similar disparities are visible across the age interval (5-14 years) between the state and the district and rural and urban. The working population (15-59 years) reveals a different scenario between the state and the district.There is disproportionate spread of population in this category. The district has less number of workers as compared to the state. In the total population, the proportion of workers is 60.82 and 63.13 for the district and the state respectively. The trends are comparable for rural and urban areas at the state and district levels. The rural and urban disparities are highly conspicuous in the state as well as the district.The proportion of population in this age bracket is more urban centric than the rural. This is an indicative of rural to urban migration of working age population and also the onset of the process of

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urbanization in the district and elsewhere in the state. As a peculiar feature, the district has equal proportion of males and females in the age bracket in rural areas and the urban females are slightly out numbering the males.
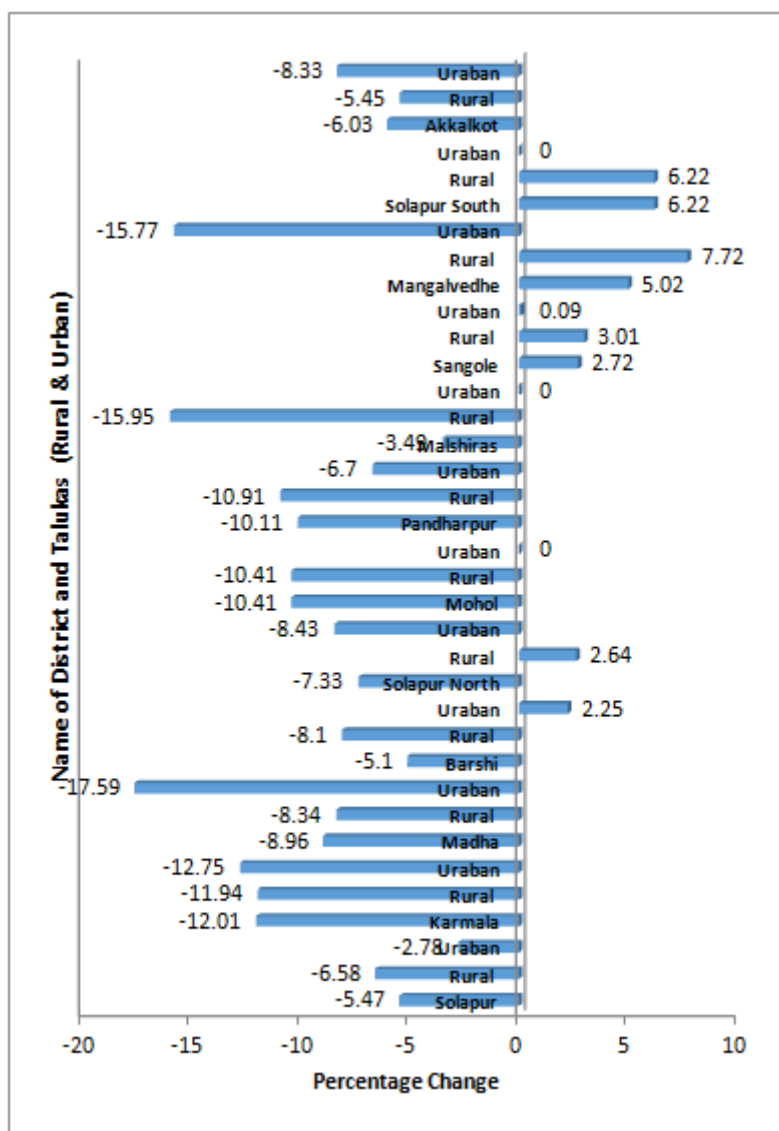
The demographic transition in the district as mentioned earlier is on a slow pace as compared to the state averages. While the population of the state increased by 16 per cent in this decade, in Solapur district the population growth in the same period is 12.16 per cent. The population growth within the district that is across talukas is not uniform during this period. Solapur South taluka witnessed the highest population growth of 23.78 per cent and Akkalkot has the lowest growth of 8.46 per cent. There are disparities between the rural and the urban across the talukas in terms of population growth. Solapur South rural has the highest growth rate (23.78) where as the Malshiras rural has the lowest growth rate which is negative (-0.32). Urban population growth rate is also revealing where Mohol and Solapur South talukasdo not have urban population at all. Sangola urban has the highest decadal growth of 22.07 per cent while Madha has the negative growth of -1.38. The reasons associated with these disparities are to be looked into while addressing human development.

Graph No: 1
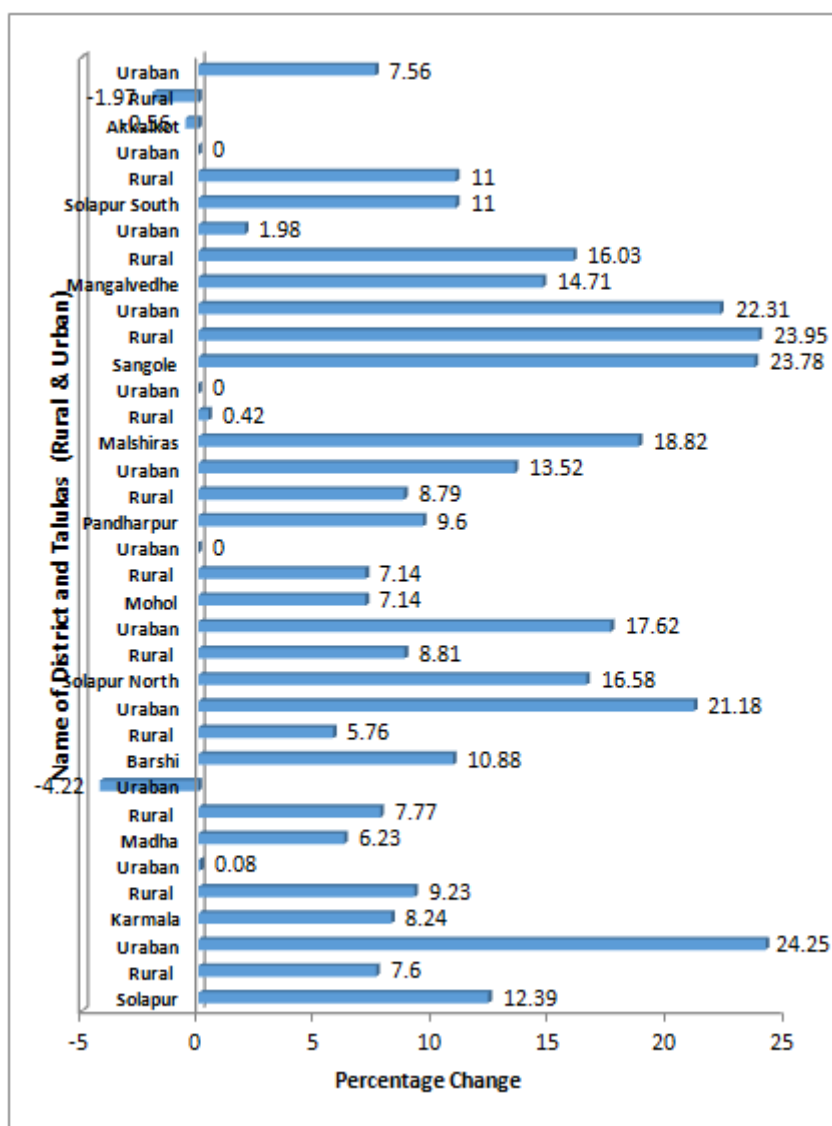**Total Population (2001-11)**

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There is a tremendous decline in the population "0-6 years", across talukas of the district in the current decade. Except a few talukas like Sangole and Mangalvedhe, decennial population growth in the district in this age category is negative. The urban areas of Madha (17.59 per cent) and Mangalvedhe (15.77 per cent) and rural Malshiras (15.95 per cent) are the highest depicting this trend. This needs estimation as how much decline in population is desirable for the society keeping the requirements of manpower for the future of the district.

Graph No: 2
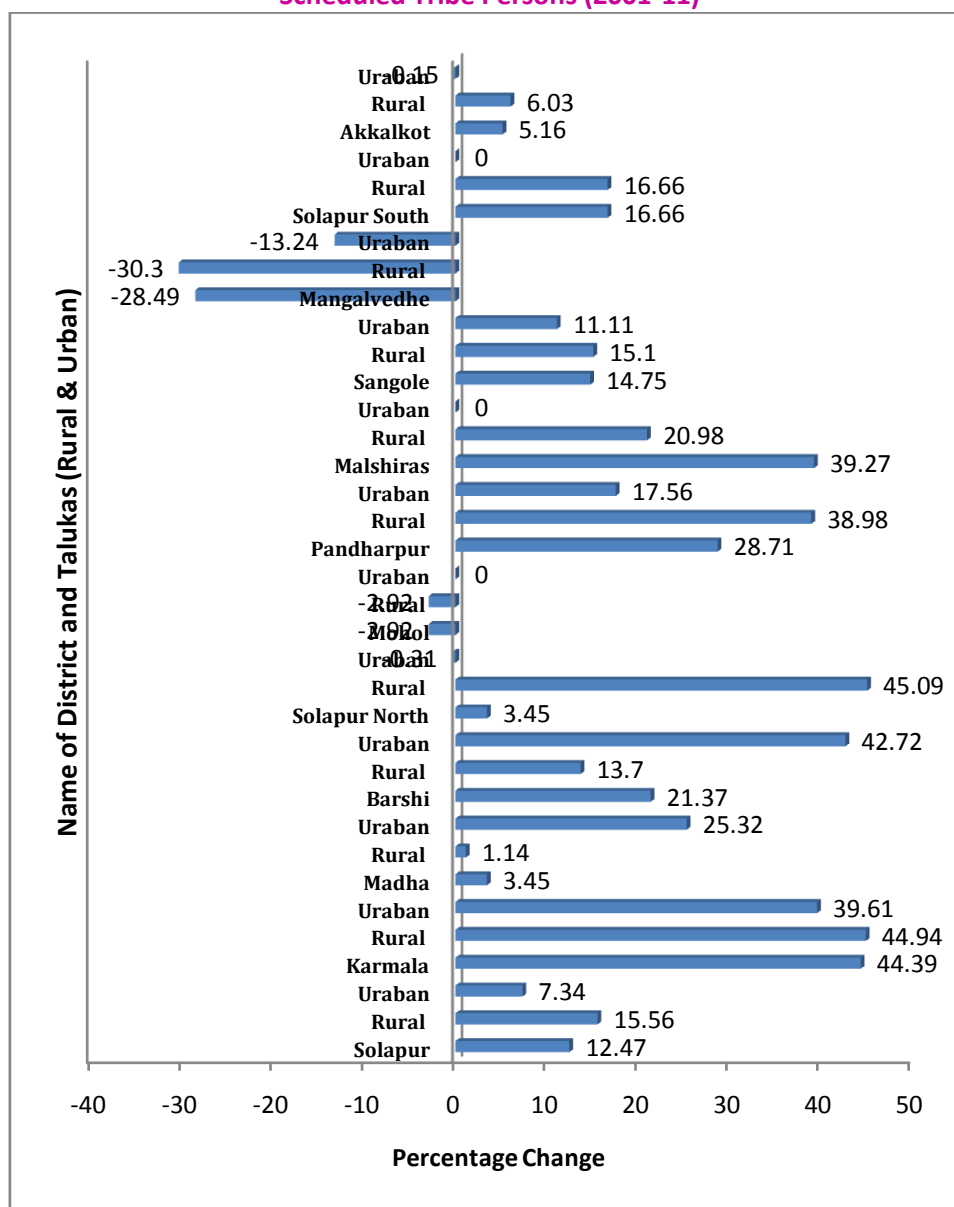**0-6 Age Group Persons (2001-11)**

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Graph No: 3
Scheduled Caste Persons (2001-11)

The growth of Scheduled Caste population is highest (23.78 per cent) followed by Malshiras (18.82 per cent) while Akkalkot taluka depicts negative growth rate of SC population (-0.56). Perhaps, lack of livelihood opportunities within the taluka and consequent out migration could be the reason for this scenario.

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Graph No: 4
Scheduled Tribe Persons (2001-11)

The Scheduled Tribe population, even though, not so significant numerically in the district, their presence is spread across different talukas. Karmalataluka has witnessed the highest growth rate of 44.39 per cent among the STs followed by Malshiras (39.27 per cent). Mangalvedhe has the highest negative growth of -28.49 which needs attention. Apart from out migration, there could be mortalities due to mal-adaptations as it happens in many tribal societies elsewhere.

Availability of work force is an important determinant of development of the district. Even though the overall work force in the district has swelled over this decade, there are disparities between rural and urban. Over the decade, the workforce in the rural areas grew by 5.04 per cent while in the urban areas the growth is as high as 21.31 per cent. This is a clear indication of lack of opportunities for employment in the rural areas forcing workers to migrate towards urban centers in the district. Further, across talukas also there is wide range of variations. In Karmala, rural Malshiras and urban Mangalvedhe, the growth of workforce is negative. Perhaps, the work force in these talukas might be migrating to the nearby growth

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centers or urban like agglomerations in the vicinity. This needs further examination. Urban areas of Sangole (22.50 per cent), Barshi (20.19 per cent), andPandarpur (18.41 per cent) are the major centers attracting most of the work force. They may be considered as important growth centers of the district apart from Solapur, the district headquarter. Barring rural Sangole (15.47 per cent) and Solapur North (10.94 per cent) the rural areas of other talukas, the growth of workers over the decade is no so impressive. This needs further examination to know whether they are pushed in to marginal or other categories of work force or the availability of workers in these age brackets is shrinking. Keeping the sustenance of growing economy, this issue may of some significance.

Sex ratio reveals gender disparities in the population. According to 2011 census data, the sex ratio at the state and the district levels is a contrast. Gender composition of the population in the district for all ages in urban areas reflects larger proportion of women than that of the state averages. The proportion of women in the rural areas of the district is much lower than the state averages. In this respect the sex ratio in the district is glaring. Contrary to the broader scenario in the state where the urbanizing population shows decline in the sex ratio, the situation in Solapur district is other way round. The sex ratio in the district is better for the rural than the urban. Perhaps, the attributes may vary from increasing awareness and improvements in the opportunities for women to excel in education and economic activities in urban areas of the district. However, for the total population sex ratio in the district is better than the state.

REFERENCES
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2. Household Census 2001-11
3. Socio - Economic Survey of Solapur District 2012-13
4. Census 2011

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