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## GROWTH OF POPULATION IN SOUTH KONKAN OF MAHARASHTRA



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### ABSTRACT

Population growth is the most fundamental demographic process with which all other demographic attributes are directly and indirectly associated. In this paper an attempt has been made to study the growth of population in South Konkan region, both in terms of time and space by selecting period of thirty years that is from 1981 to 2011. Tehsil is selected as basic unit of investigation. The positive growth rate indicates that the population is increasing, while negative growth rate indicates the population is decreasing. Overall the trend of growth of population in the region indicates that the whole region has just entered in the last phase of the second stage of the demographic transition and the resultant population explosion, usually found in developing regions.



**KEYWORDS :** Population Growth, Negative Increase, Decade, Decennial growth.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Population growth determines density, distribution pattern and composition of population. Therefore geographical study of population growth of the region is of vital importance for understanding its dynamism as well as for planning at the local and regional level. An increase or decrease in the population may bring about a versatile change in the man-land ratio. Population growth is not determined by biological factors quite independent of society, this growth is accelerated or slowed down depending on the nature of social system and level of its development.

In population geography, the term growth of population numbers inhabiting a territory during a specific period of time irrespective of the fact whether the change is positive or negative. Such change can be measured both in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of percentage. While it is

easy to determine the change in absolute numbers by subtracting the number of inhabitants at an earlier point in time from that of at a later point in time, the measurement of percentage change poses a little problem. The growth of population in terms of percentage is generally calculated by dividing the absolute change by the population at an earlier date and multiplying it by hundred. Logically, the denominator should be mid period population, but since the mid-period population will have be estimated, therefore, the growth rate is normally calculated by using the actual population size at the beginning point of period under review.

In this paper an attempt has been made to study the growth of population in South Konkan region, both in terms of time and space.

### 2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to analyse the growth of population in terms of time and space for the period of 1981 to 2011.

### 3.0 THE STUDY REGION

The South Konkan region is a part of the Konkan division of the Maharashtra state. The study region includes Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of South Konkan only. It extends from 150 36' north to 180 04' north latitude and 730 02' east to 740 36' east longitude. Geographically the South Konkan region has considerable variation in relief. Administratively it is divided in to 17 tehsils. The study region covers an area of 13415 Km<sup>2</sup> with 2464720 populations according to 2011 Census. The study region is industrially backward.

### 4.0 RESERCH METHODOLOGY

Present study is entirely based on secondary data. The required data are collected from the . Census reports published by Government of India and. Reports published by Government of Maharashtra. Tehsil is taken as a basic unit of investigation. The growth of population is measured by using the following formula.

$$r = \frac{P2 - P1}{P1} \times 100$$

Where,

r = is the growth of population in Per Cent.

P2 = is the population in the latest period.

P1 = is the population in the past period.

The positive growth rate indicates that the population is increasing, while negative growth rate indicates the population is decreasing. A growth rate of zero indicates that there were the same number of people at two times – net differences between birth, death and migration is zero.

### 5.0 DECENNIAL GROWTH OF POPULATION

#### 5.1 COMPARATIVE GROWTH OF POPULATION (1951-2011)

In 1951, the population of South Konkan district was 17,11,964, which by 2011 rose to 24,64,720. Table 1 clearly shows that In South Konkan region, the growth rate of population has been decreasing always lower than the corresponding growth rate of the state and nation.

Table 1  
Growth of Population : Comparative Study (1951 – 2011)

Census Year	Growth of Population (in %)		
	Study Region	Maharashtra State	India
1951 – 1961	+ 6.73	+ 23.60	+ 21.50
1961 – 1971	+ 8.94	+ 27.45	+ 24.80
1971 – 1981	+ 6.06	+ 24.54	+ 24.99
1981 – 1991	+ 12.54	+ 25.73	+ 23.79
1991 – 2001	+ 7.97	+ 23.37	+ 21.54
2001 – 2011	- 3.93	+ 15.99	+ 17.64

Source :i) Handbook of Basic Statistics of Maharashtra State.  
 ii) District Census Handbook of Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg 1981, 1991  
 iii) District Census C. D. of Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg 2001, 2011.  
 iii) Compiled by Authors (2015)

In 1951-1961 decade, 6.73 per cent population growth was recorded. This rate was lower than that of the State (23.60 per cent) and Nation (21.50 per cent) average due to the lower births and out migration. During 1961-1971 decade the population growth of the study region (8.44 per cent) much lower than the state (27.45 per cent) and nations (24.80 per cent) average. During 1971-81 decade also the population growth of the study region was lower (6.06 per cent) than the State and Nations' average (+2.54 and 24.99) respectively (Table 1 and Fig. 1).

During 1981-1991 decade the, 12.54 per cent growth of population was recorded in the study region. This rate of increase, though higher in all the post independence period, was lower than the state and nations' (25.73 and 23.79 per cent) average respectively. During this decade the birth rate was higher than the death rate thereby causing higher growth rate. During 1991-2001 decade 7.97 per cent population growth rate was recorded in the study region. This rate of increase was lower than the state and nations' average (23.37 and 21.54 per cent) respectively. During 2001-2011 decade, negative growth rate of population in the study region (- 3.93 per cent) was recorded. This growth rate was very much lower than the state (15.99 per cent) and nations' (17.64 per cent) average. During this decade birth rate was lower than the death rate and more out migration towards the Mumbai and Pune cities.

## 5.2 GROWTH OF POPULATION

### 1981 - 1991

During 1981-1991 Ratnagiri tehsil registered the highest (19.14 per cent) growth of population, while the lowest (1.14 per cent) growth of population has recorded in Malwan tehsil (table 2). Chiplun and Ratnagiri tehsils have recorded high growth (above 16 per cent) of population due to the development of industries. (Fig.4.2 A). Malwan tehsil of the study region recorded negative growth of population. Eight Percentage variation of eight tehsils (Mandangad (9.91), Dapoli (11.84), Khed (9.57), Guhagar (12.28), Lanja (10.20), Devgad (9.10), Sawantwadi (10.64) and Dodamarg (12.72) have recorded moderate (8 to 16 per cent) growth of population during this decade (table 2).

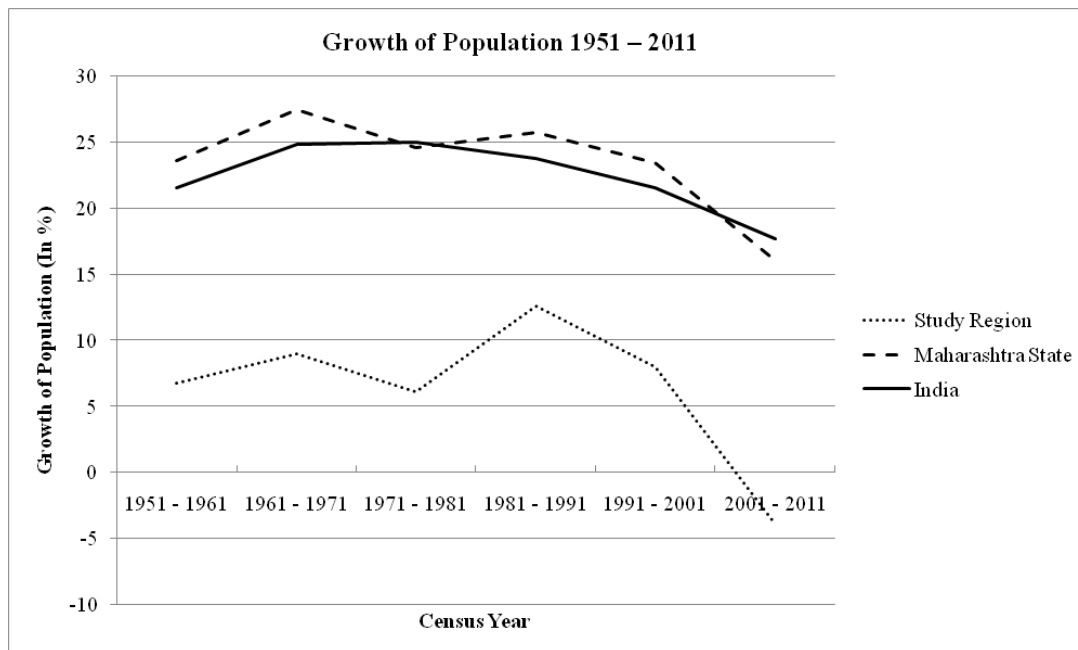


Fig. 1

### 1991-2001

During 1991-2001 the growth of population has been ranging from 16.48 per cent in Guhagar tehsil to – 15.88 per cent in Malwan tehsil. High growth of population (above 10 per cent) has been occurred in Guhagar tehsil. Very low growth (below Zero per cent) or negative growth of population has been recorded in Khed (- 0.68), Chiplun (- 5.57), Ratnagiri (- 7.85), Rajapur (- 2.94), Vaibhavwadi (- 0.38), Malwan (- 15.88), Vengurla (- 13.42) and Sawantwadi (- 8.38) tehsils mainly because of out migration and low birth rate. Low growth (0-5 per cent) of population recorded in Mandangad (3.51), Sangameshwar (4.01), Devgad (4.80) and Dodamarg (2.95) tehsils during this decade. Moderate growth (5 to 10 per cent) of population recorded in Dapoli (7.89), Lanja (6.54), Kankavli (6.13) and Kudal (6.59) tehsils during this decade.

### 2001-2011

During 2001-2011 Ratnagiri tehsil has registered the highest (37.77 per cent) growth of population (Table 4.2). Chiplun (18.85), Malwan (14.09), Sawantwadi (16.96), have recorded high (above 10 per cent) growth of population due the development of industry at Chiplun, forest based industries at Sawantwadi tehsil, fisheries industry at Malwan tehsil (Fig 4, 3 A). Nine tehsils of the study region (viz. Mandangad (- 11.99), Dapoli (-7.80), Guhagar (- 13.39), Sangameshwar (-7.67), Lanja (- 5.45), Rajapur (- 4.76), Devgad (- 3.50), Vaibhavwadi (9.32), and Kankavli (- 2.08) recorded negative growth of population mainly because of low birth rate and out migration towards Mumbai and Pune. Khed (0.51), Kudal (1.76) and Dodamarg (2.25) tehsil have recorded low (0 – 8 per cent) growth of population.

### 1981-2011

During three decades (1981-2011) Ratnagiri tehsil has registered the highest (51.25 per cent) growth of population, while the lowest (- 7.98 per cent) growth of population has recorded in Vaibhavwadi tehsil (Table 2). Chiplun (30.30), Ratnagiri (51.25), Kudal (19.96) and Sawantwadi (18.56)

tehsils have high (above 16 per cent) growth of population and Dapoli (11.25), Khed (9.38), Guhagar (13.27), Lanja (11.00), Devgad (10.34), Kankavli (11.39) and Dodamarg (13.44) tehsils have recorded moderate (8 to 16 per cent) growth of population (Table 2).

Table 2  
Growth of Population in South Konkan Region : (1981 – 2011)

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Growth of population (in %)			
		1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011	1981-2011
1	<b>Mandangad</b>	9.91	3.51	- 11.99	0.13
2	<b>Dapoli</b>	11.84	7.89	- 7.80	11.25
3	<b>Khed</b>	9.57	- 0.68	0.51	9.38
4	<b>Chiplun</b>	16.10	- 5.57	18.85	30.30
5	<b>Guhagar</b>	12.28	16.48	- 13.39	13.27
6	<b>Ratnagiri</b>	19.14	-7.85	37.77	51.25
7	<b>Sangameshwar</b>	7.78	4.01	- 7.67	3.51
8	<b>Lanja</b>	10.20	6.54	- 5.45	11.00
9	<b>Rajapur</b>	6.13	- 2.94	- 4.76	- 1.89
10	<b>Devgad</b>	9.10	4.80	- 3.50	10.34
11	<b>Vaibhavwadi</b>	1.87	- 0.38	- 9.32	- 7.98
12	<b>Kankavli</b>	7.18	6.13	- 2.08	11.39
13	<b>Malwan</b>	- 1.14	- 15.88	14.09	- 5.12
14	<b>Vengurla</b>	2.48	- 13.42	13.02	0.29
15	<b>Kudal</b>	1.06	6.59	1.76	19.96
16	<b>Sawantwadi</b>	10.64	8.38	16.96	18.56
17	<b>Dodamarg</b>	12.72	2.95	2.25	13.44
	<b>South Konkan</b>	10.06	7.97	- 3.93	14.16

Source: i) Census of India (1981, 1991) District Census Handbook of Ratnagiri.  
ii) Census of India (1991), District Census Handbook of Sindhudurg.  
iii) Census of India (1981), District Census Handbook of Kolhapur.  
iv) Census of India (2001 & 2011), District Census C.D. of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.  
v) Compiled by Author (2015).

Mandangad (0.13), Sangameshwar (3.51) and Vengurla (0.29) tehsils have low (0 to 8 per cent) growth of population and Rajapur (- 1.89), Vaibhavwadi (- 7.98), Malwan (5.12) tehsils have recorded negative growth of population due to hilly area, steep slope, undulating landforms, barren land, very narrow riverine plains, valati.

## 6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall the trend of growth of population in the region indicates that the whole region has just entered in the last phase of the second stage of the demographic transition and the resultant population explosion, usually found in developing regions.

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