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A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF POPULATION GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION IN MAHARASHTRA STATE



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ABSTRACT:

According to the 2011 Census the total population of Maharashtra is 11.24 crore, which accounts 9.28% of the India's (121.02 crore in 2011) total population. In 2011, the state had population of 11.24 crore persons, indicating a decadal growth rate of 16.11 percent. The Population growth rate is varies from district to district. The highest decadal growth rate is observed in the district of thane (35.94%), more than two times (2.24%) average growth rate for the state as whole. The uneven distribution of population is mainly due to diverse of physiographic conditions and disparity in the socio-economic development in the state:

KEYWORDS

Growth rate, Density, Maharashtra.

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INTRODUCTION:-

The most striking feature of the demography of Maharashtra state is its high decadal growth rate and unequal distribution of population. The population is unevenly distributed in the state. In some part of the state population is overcrowded in metropolitan cities i.e. Mumbai etc. and extremely sparse in remote mountainous, inaccessible area such as Sahyadri, Melghat, Satpurg and East vidharbha hills. Rural population is comparative higher than urban areas. Maharashtra is experiencing rapid urbanizations. The flood plains of the Godavari, The Bhima, The Krishna etc river basins are highly populous than the patency surface.

It is estimated that the population of the state in 1901 was only 1.93 crore and increased up to 11.24 crore in 2011. During the last twelve decades (between 1901 to 2011) the population of the state has grown more than 5 times to reach 11.24 crore. This increase is phenomenal considering 3.6 times increase for the country as a whole during the same period.

OBJECTIVES:

- i) To study the spatio – temporal changes of population growth and distribution in Maharashtra.
- ii) To examine the Decennial growth of population of the state.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

Necessary data for the study has been taken from the census of India and other relevant statistical reports covering the period from 2001 to 2011. The method followed in this investigation include the use of percentage, simple ratio and exponential growth rate, density distribution and concentration.

STUDY REGION:

The Maharashtra state extent between 150 48' N. to 2206' N. latitudes and 72036' E. to 80054' E. longitude. Total geographical area of the state is 3,07,713 sq. km. of area, with an estimated are of about 9.37% of total geographical area of India, where Maharashtra ranks third after Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The state has a great east-west extent than north south and occupies nearly right angle triangle shape. The state comprising thirty six districts. Physicals Maharashtra state is divided into two major physical units, Kankan coastland of the Westside and the Maharashtra Plateau on the east. The rivers in the Maharashtra may be grouped into two categories (i) The westward flowing rivers drain into Arabian sea and the eastward flowing into the Bas of Bengal. Being a part of Indian Sub continent, the climate of the state is tropical monsoon type with Significant regional and seasonal variation in temperature and rainfall conditions.

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION: -

The growth, distribution etc of Population to a certain extent throw light on man power of the region and it is responsible for its progress also. It is noticed from table that total population has been

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observed 1123.73 lakh in 2011 in the region.

Table 1 Maharashtra state : District wise population Distribution 2011

Sr. No.	Name of District	Population in Lakh	I.T. State Poulation	Density	Sr. No.	Name of District	Population in Lakh	I.T. State Poulation	Density
1	Mumbai City	31.46	2.79	20,038	19	Parbhani	18.36	1.63	295
2	Mumbai Sub-division	93.32	8.30	20,925	20	Hingoli	11.79	1.04	244
3	Thane	110.54	9.83	1,157	21	Beed	25.86	2.30	242
4	Raigad	26.35	2.34	368	22	Nanded	3357	2.98	319
5	Ratnagiri	16.13	1.43	196	23	Osmanabad	16.60	1.47	219
6	Sindhudurg	8.49	0.75	163	24	Latur	24.56	2.18	343
7	Nasik	61.09	5.43	393	25	Buldhana	25.80	2.29	268
8	Dhule	20.49	1.82	285	26	Akola	18.19	1.61	321
9	Nandurbar	16.46	1.46	276	27	Washim	11.97	1.06	244
10	Jalgaon	42.24	3.75	359	28	Amarawati	28.88	2.57	237
11	Ahmednagar	45.43	4.04	266	29	Yeotmal	27.75	2.46	204
12	Pune	94.27	8.38	603	30	Wardha	12.96	1.75	205
13	Satara	30.04	2.67	287	31	Nagpur	46.53	4.14	470
14	Sangli	28.21	2.51	329	32	Bnandra	11.99	1.06	293
15	Solapur	43.16	3.84	290	33	Gondia	13.22	1.17	253
16	Koklhapur	38.74	3.44	504	34	Chandrapur	21.94	1.95	195
17	Aurangabad	36.96	3.28	365	35	Gadchiroli	10.72	3.95	74
18	Jalna	19.56	1.74	255		Total State	1123.73		365

Source: Computed by the researcher.

The highest population constriction is observed in Thane district 9.83 % and very low population concentration is registered in Sidhudurg (0.75%) district during 2011. According 2011 census total population of the state is registered 1123.73 lakh. in which male population is 583.61 lakh, while female population is 540.12 lakh.

The average density of population is expressed as a number of persons per sq. km. The average density of population of Maharashtra's is higher (365 Persons / sq. km.) than the national average of 316 persons sq. km.

The density of Population is varies from district to district in the state. The highest density of population is marked 20925 persons / sq. km. in Mumbai sub division and lower population density about 74 persons / sq. km. in the Gadchiroli. On the basis of density distribution at district level, the following zones are indentified.

i)Very high density zone: The very high density zone (above 650 persons / sq. km.) covered the districts mainly Mumbai, Mumbai sub division and Thane districts, wherever rapid urbanizations and industrialization has been took place from last five decades. There is more job opportunity, therefore, people from different part of country continuously migrating toward these urban centre. These districts are located on west-coast and well connected by all types of route to the rest of part of the country.

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ii)High density Zone: As many as two districts support high density of 500-650 persons/sq. km. These district are located in western Maharashtra division namely Pune and Kolhapur, which are leading districts in Sugarcane cultivation and sugar industries in the state.

iii)Moderate density zone (350-500 persons /sq. km.):- Moderate population density is found in five districts, viz. Raigad, Nasik, Jalgaon, Aurangabad and Nagpur where the population density is marked in Raigad 368 persons / sq. km., Nasik 393 person / sq. km. , Jalgaon 359 person / sq. km., Aurangabad 365 person /sq. km. and Nagpur 470 person / sq. km. during 2011.

iv)Low density zone:- 22 districts of the state have a low density of population ranging from 200-350 person / sq. km. These district are mainly located in Aurangabad division (04 districts), followed by Nanded division (04 districts), Nagpur division (04 districts), Amarawati division (04 districts) Nasik division (03 districts) , Pune division (03 districts).

v)Very low density zone (Below 200 person / sq. km.) : The districts namely Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli comprise in this zone.

Growth of Population :- The population statistics of one decade (2001-2011) is given in the table 2.

Table 2 reveals that the highest population growth rate of the population reported from Thane (35.94%) district and lowest in Wardha (4.80%) district during the study period. Thane is the well developed and most advanced city of Maharashtra. It is a great industrial and trading centre. Mumbai city, Ratnagiri and Raigad districts are experienced negative population growth rate

Table 2 Maharashtra State :: District wise Decennial growth of population During 2001-2011

Sr.No.	District	Growth rate in %	Sr.No.	District	Growth rate in %
1	Mumbai city	-5.75	19	Parbhani	20.18
2	Mumbai sub division	8.01	20	Hingoli	19.43
3	Thane	35.94	21	Beed	19.65
4	Raigad	19.36	22	Nanded	16.70
5	Ratnagiri	-4.96	23	Osmanabad	11.69
6	Sindhurg	-2.30	24	Latur	18.04
7	Nasik	22.33	25	Buldhana	15.93
8	Dhule	19.96	26	Akola	11.60
9	Nandurbar	25.50	27	Washim	17.23
10	Jalgaon	14.71	28	Amrawati	10.77
11	A.Nagar	12.43	29	yeotmal	12.90
12	Pune	30.34	30	Wardha	4.80
13	Satara	6.94	31	Nagpur	14.39
14	Sangli	9.18	32	Bhandra	5.52
15	Solapur	12.10	33	Gondia	10.13
16	Kolhapur	9.96	34	Chandrapur	5.95
17	Aurangabad	27.33	35	Gadchiroli	10.46
18	Jalna	21.84		Average State	15.99

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Source : Computed by the Researcher.

during the same period below 15% growth rate of Population is found in Mumbai sub division (8.01%), Jalgaon (14.71%) A. Nagar (12.43%), Satara (6.94%), Sangli (9.18%), Solapur (12.10%), Kolhapur (9.96%), Osmanabad (11.69%), Akola (11.60%), Amrawati (10.77%), Yeotmal (12.90%), Wardha (4.80%), Nagpur (14.39%), Bhandara (5.52%) Gondia (10.13%), Chandrapur (5.95%), Gadchiroli (10.45%), About 15% to 20% growth rate of population is registered in Raigad (19.36%), Dhule (19.96%), Hingoli (19.43%), Beed(19.65%), Nanded (16.70%), latur (18.04%), Buldhana (15.93%), Washim (17.25%) Above 20% population growth rate is recorded in Thane (35.94%), Nasik (22.23%), Nandurbar (25.50%) etc districts during the under study.

CONCLUSION :

It is clear from above discussion that density of distribution of the region is mainly governed by physiographic conditions of the state. The population is heavily concentrated in the areas of attraction viz. the rivers valleys. the density distribution also reflects the nature and character of the economy. The excessive population growth both due to natural increase and migration has substantially modified the demographic as well as socio-economic character of the region.

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