

PATTERNS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT OF SOUTH MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract: It is worth noting fact that the process of development is gradually taking place in the world. In fact, it is law of nature that each and every phenomenon of development cannot be equalized with one another, therefore, the rate and state of development varies from region to region, society to society, sector to sector etc. As the rate of development varies from region to region, that is why large scale regional disparities in the levels of development can be seen. Regional disparities in developing countries have reached to a great extent that the state of global disparity between rich and poor is becoming central issue of our time. Regional disparities have become one of the most important glaring and growing problems not only in developing countries but also in the most advanced countries of the world. Some regions are developed economically but backward socially, whereas some other are developed socially and backward economically, therefore, it becomes essential to study the levels of socio-economic development over different regions so as to ensure the removal of regional imbalances effectively (Shara and Kumar, 1993).

Keyword: Patterns , Rural Development , phenomenon , economically.

INTRODUCTION

Rural development is a process of sustained improvement in material and social welfare of total population with clear social emphasis on those living outside the urbanized areas or rural development may be broadly defined as a process aimed at the well being of people, particularly those living outside the urbanized areas through forward and backward linkage between the rural and urban sectors (Rukhsana, 2009).

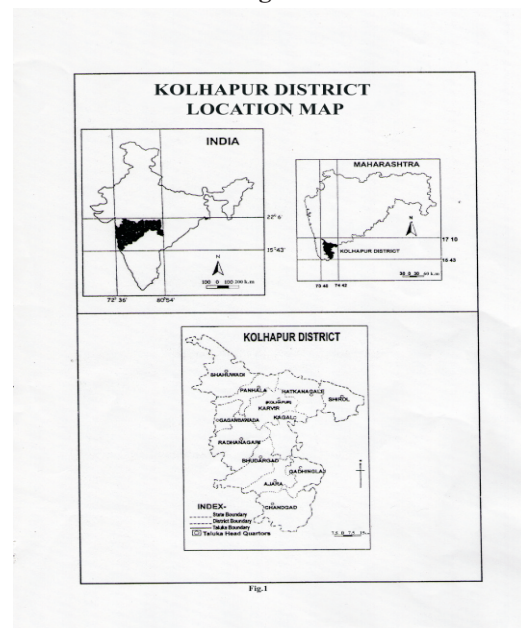
Kolhapur district is socio-economically one of the developed districts in Maharashtra. The district experiences greater regional disparities in the rural development not only at tahsil level but also within the tahsils. The present study attempts to analyse the patterns of rural development at tahsil level in the district.

STUDY AREA

The region under study extends between 15043' to 17010' north latitude and 73040' to 74042' east longitude (Fig-1).

Kolhapur district is enclosed by Sangli district in the north, Belgaum district of Karnataka state in the south and east and in the west it is bounded by Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. The district occupies total area of 7685 sq.km., sharing 2.62% area of the Maharashtra state. The district consists of twelve tahsils comprising 1203 villages.

Fig.1



According to 2001 census the total population of the district is 35, 15,413(Census 2001).

Physiographically it is complex part characterized by the alternate arrangement of ridges and valleys from south to north. The region consists of 14 micro river basins. The altitude of the region ranges between 500 to 1000 mts. The average maximum temperature in the region is 30°C and minimum 14°C. The rainfall ranges from 6000mm in the west and 600mm to the east. The Western Ghat region to the west has evergreen and semi-evergreen forests and the eastern part is covered with deciduous forest to the east of the study region. The western part of the district is occupied by a laterite soil and alluvial soil is found in the river valleys.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the present work is to analyse the pattern of rural development in Kolhapur district.

DATABASE & METHODOLOGY

The present work is mainly based on secondary data. Tahsil-wise relevant data is collected from the tahsil offices, the District Statistical Abstract, District Census & unpublished records for the year 2001-02. The data has been tabulated and presented by statistical and cartographic techniques.

SELECTION OF INDICATORS-

A variety of socio-economic indicators have been used in India, for planning, assessment of progress, identification of backward areas and measurement of regional disparities (Verma, 1993). In the present study a set of thirty indicators from social, economic and infrastructural sectors have been chosen to measure the levels of rural development in Kolhapur district which are as follows:

ECONOMIC SECTOR

1. Percentage of net sown area to total geographical area. (x1)
2. Net area sown for per agricultural worker. (x2)
3. Net area irrigated as percentage of net area sown. (x3)
4. Consumption of fertilizer in kg. per hectore. (x4)
5. Proportion of agricultural credit-societies per 1000 of population. (x5)
6. Number of electric & oil operated irrigation pumps to 100 hectors of net irrigated area. (x6)
7. Number of tractors per 100 hectares of net sown area. (x7)
8. Percentage of cash crops to net sown area. (x8)
9. Intensity of rainfall. (x9)
10. Number of regulated markets. (x10)
11. Number of registered working factories per 10,000 of population. (x11)
12. Percentage of workers engaged in secondary and tertiary activities to total work force. (x12)
13. Percentage of agricultural workers (Cultivators & Laborers) to total work force. (x13)
14. Percentage of total workers to total population. (x14)

Social sector

15. Percentage of literate population to total Population. (x15)
16. Percentage of female literacy to total female population. (x16)
17. Percentage of male literacy to total male population. (x17)
18. Percentage of S.C. literacy to total S.C. population. (x18)
19. Percentage of S.T. literacy to total S.T. population. (x19)
20. Number of primary schools per 10,000 of population. (x20)
21. Number of secondary schools per 10,000 of population. (x21)
22. Number of Jr. colleges per 10,000 of population. (x22)
23. Number of Sr. colleges per 10,000 of population. (x23)
24. Percentage of female workers engaged in secondary and tertiary activities to total female workers. (x24)

Infrastructural sector

25. Number of national & co-operative banks per 10,000 of population. (x25)
26. Number of primary health centers and sub centers per 10,000 of population. (x26)
27. Number of hospitals and dispensaries. (x27)
28. Number of post offices per 100 sq. k.m. (x28)
29. Number of telephone offices per 100 sq. k.m. (x29)
30. Villages linked with pacca roads as percentage to total inhabited villages. (x30)

The first fourteen indicators are related to the economic development, next ten are related to the social development and remaining six indicators are related to the development of infrastructural facilities. As all the indicators of rural development are not equally important, the authors have assigned different weights to different indicators by the method of Proportional 'Standardized Mean' (Shrivastava, 1983) that is to say, the weight assigned to one indicator is measured by calculating

$$C.I. = \frac{x_1 \frac{x_1}{x_1} + x_2 \frac{x_2}{x_2} + x_3 \frac{x_3}{x_3} + \dots + x_{14} \frac{x_{14}}{x_{14}}}{\frac{x_1}{1} + \frac{x_2}{2} + \frac{x_3}{3} + \dots + \frac{x_{14}}{14}}$$

$$C.I. = \frac{x_1 W_1 + x_2 W_2 + \dots + x_{14} W_{14}}{W_1 + W_2 + \dots + W_{14}}$$

Analysis

The respective weights of all the above indicators are ranges from 0.66 to 22.59 (Appendix 1). Thus it is observed that the highest weight (22.59) is shown for the percentage of male literacy to total male population and the lowest weight (0.66) is observed for number of registered working factories per 10,000 of population.

Table-1
Kolhapur District
Composite Index of Rural Development (2001)

Sr.No.	Tahsil	Composite index	indices
1	Shauwadi	75.11	86.87
2	Panhala	91.32	105.62
3	Hatkanagle	95.64	110.62
4	Shirol	102.66	118.73
5	Karveer	92.49	106.97
6	Gaganbavada	77.85	90.04
7	Radhanagari	84.65	97.91
8	Kagal	92.76	107.29
9	Bhudargad	83.13	96.14
10	Ajara	78.64	90.95
11	Gadhinglaj	86.35	99.87
12	Chandgad	76.94	88.99
	Average	86.46	100.00

Source-Compiled by researchers from Appendix- 1

Regional disparities in rural development are very much marked within the study area as the composite indices of the tahsils range from 86.87 in Shirol tahsil to 118.73 in Shuhuwadi tahsil (4.11). In other words Shirol tahsil is the more advanced tahsil and Shahuwadi tahsil is the backward tahsil in rural development. Hatkanangle is the next advanced tahsil whose index is much higher (10 point or more) than the district average (100). Obviously, there are, three tahsils i.e. Panhala, Karveer and Kagal whose indices are 5 to 7 point higher than the district average. Remaining seven tahsils would be taken as 'Backward' as their indices are below the district average (Table-1).

There are five tahsils having lower index (Between 90 to 100) than the district average, namely Gadhinglaj, Radhanagri, Bhudargad, Ajra and Gaganbavda; and two tahsils, namely Chandgad and Shahuwadi whose indices are below 90 which represent the most backward tahsils in rural development within the district.

Spatial Patterns of Rural Development

As per the methodology adopted for measuring the levels of development in different sectors, four categories of tahsils are grouped as areas of developed, fairly developed, poorly developed and very poorly developed zone (Table-2) which are discussed below.

**Table – 2
Kolhapur District
Levels of Rural Development**

Index Value →	Above 110	100 to 110	90 to 100	Below 90
Category →	Developed	Fairly developed	Poorly developed	Very poorly developed
Tahsils →	Shirol, Hatkanagale,	Kagal, Karveer, Panhala	Gadhinglaj, Radhanagari, Ajara, Bhudargad, Gaganbawada,	Chandgad, Shahuwadi
No of tahsils →	02	03	05	02

Source-Compiled by researchers from table-1

i. Developed Zone:

Tahsils having the indices values above 110 lie in this category consisting of Shirol and Hatkanangle tahsils(Fig.2). These tahsils experiences comparatively a sound development in all the three sectors. This zone is associated with fertile irrigated land, high proportion of industrial units, better educational, banking transport and health facilities.

ii. Fairly Developed Zone:

Under this category Kagal, Karveer & Panhala tahsils have been included which have the indices values ranges from 100 to 110.

This zone possesses the composite index higher than the district average but less than 10 points. More net sown area and net area irrigated; more number of regulated markets, registered working factories, educational institutions; more percentage of workers engaged in secondary and tertiary activities are the main reasons behind

the inclusion of these tahsils in this category.

It is to note that the Kagal and Karveer tahsils have good development in all the three sectors but Panhala tahsil in this category is developed in social and economic sectors and poorly developed in infrastructural sector.

iii. Poorly Developed Zone:

This zone covers five tahsils, namely; Gadhinglaj, Radhanagari, Ajra, Bhudargad, and Gaganbawada, whose indices ranges from 90 to 100.

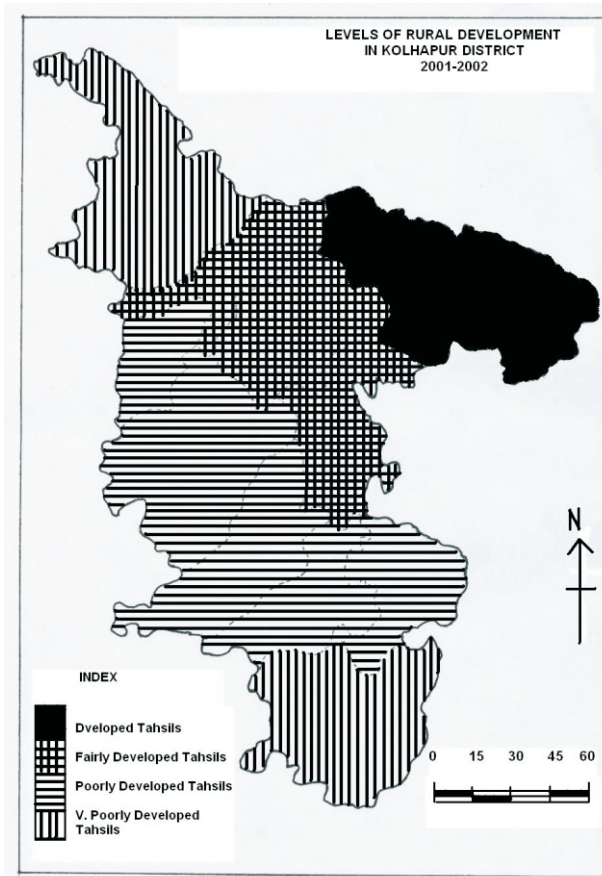
It is to note that Gadhinglaj tahsil experiences good development in the economic and infrastructural sector, it lies in this category because it has poor social development. In this tahsil, Gadhinglaj is a major town where the educational and health facilities are highly concentrated but these facilities are not developed in rest of rural areas of this tahsil. Since the town Gadhinglaj is excluded from the study the remaining rural areas of the tahsil present poor development in such indicators of social development.

iv. Very Poorly Developed Zone:

Tahsils having indices values below 90 have been included in this category consisting of two tahsils, namely; Chandgad and Shahuwadi. This zone experiences backward state in all three sectors of development.

This overall regional disparity in the rural development in the district is well presented in the fig. 2.

Fig.2



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The first two zones have shown high rural developments which are located to the eastern part of the district and spread over the flood plains of Panchganga and Warana rivers and their tributaries. It covers 44.60 percent area of the districts total area. The third and fourth zone which is rurally poorly developed comprises high Proportion (55.40 percent) of the total area of the district. These zones cover the Western part of the district which is hilly, forested, infertile, sloppy, undulating with narrow basins.

CONCLUSION

The analysis reveals that there are great regional disparities in the rural development in Kolhapur district, which has given rise to different patterns of rural development. The study of areal variation categorizes the developed, fairly developed, poorly developed and very poorly developed regions covering two, three, five and two tahsils respectively. It is significant to note that the regional disparity in the rural development bears some resemblance to the physiography of the region. This has direct concern with the socio-economic development in general and rural development in particular. In order to minimize the disparity in the rural development, necessary steps should be taken on priority basis by the government organizations as well as non-government organizations.

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