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POPULATION CHANGES IN VILLAGES OF SANGLI DISTRICT

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Abstract:-Population Change refers to the increase or decrease of human population in a particular area during a specific period of time. The growth of population is a factor associated with man's occupation, cultural background, historical events and political ideology. The change or growth of population in any area is determined by three basic factors namely, human fertility, human mortality, and human mobility. The analysis of population growth may be seen in two ways : the net growth of population over a year and it may analyze as individual changes as they occur in birth, death and migration. The growth of population in any area is an index of its economic development, social awakening and many other characters. The growth rate assumes spatial significance when viewed from temporal perspective. The population growth is the most fundamental demographic process with which all other demographic attributes are directly or indirectly associated. Therefore, geographic study of population growth of a region is of vital importance for understanding its dynamics as well as planning at the local and regional levels. The present paper tries to analyze the population changes of all the villages in Sangli district during last four decades i.e. from 1961 to 2001.

Keywords:Fertility, Mortality, Birth rate, Death rate, Migration.

INTRODUCTION

The reason for calling this heading as “*Population Change*” rather than “*Population Growth*” is that the population of Sangli district decreased in two decades, namely 1901-1911 and 1911-1921, whereas it had decreased in 1911-1921 only in Maharashtra state .The same argument can be advanced while presenting data at other levels in the district i.e. of tahsil and village. The concept regarding “*Growth of Population*” is often used to denote the change in the number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time, irrespective of the fact whether the change is positive or negative. This changed growth can be measured both in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of percentage (Chandna and Sidhu)1. Thus any change in population number is called growth. If this change is in negative direction, i.e. if it decreases, the growth is negative and when the change is in positive direction, i.e. if the population increases, the growth is positive. This rightly indicates that a growth does not necessarily always indicate an increase. Thus, *Population Change refers to the increase or decrease of human population in a particular area during a specific period of time.*

The growth of population is a factor associated with man's occupation, cultural background, historical events and political ideology (Singh and Chaturvedi)2. The change or growth of population in any area is determined by three basic factors namely, human fertility, human mortality, and human mobility. The spatial patterns of population growth in the region are manifestation of the spatial dimension of socio-economic dynamics of its various parts (Chandna)3. The analysis of population growth may be seen in two ways : i) the net growth of population over a year and ii) it may analyze as individual changes as they occur in birth, death and migration (Ray)4. The growth of population in any area is an index of its economic development, social awakening and many other characters (Chandna and Sidhu)5.

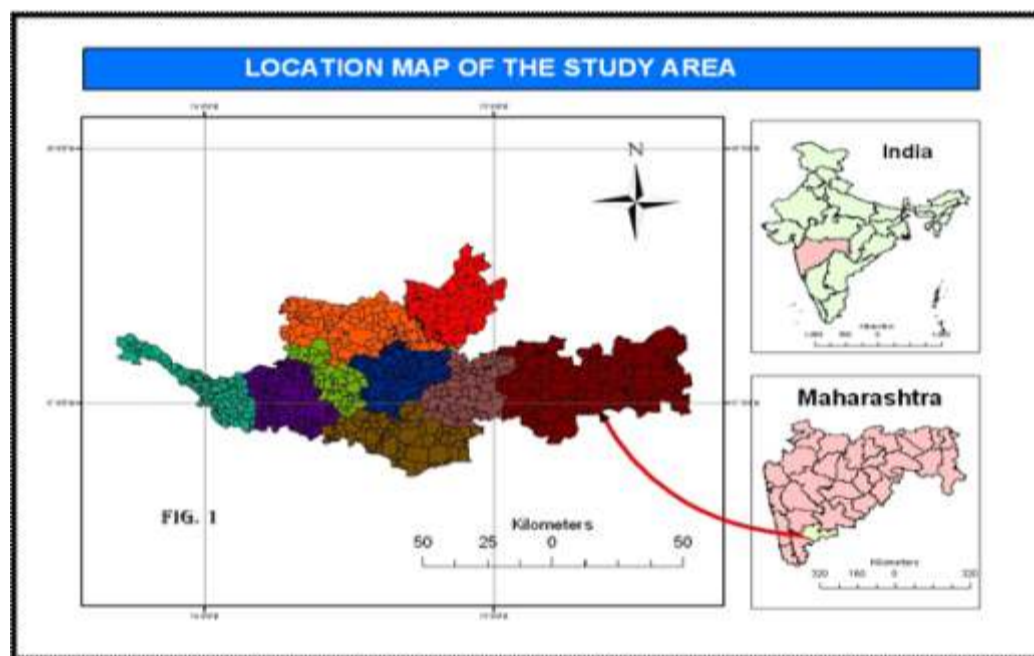
The growth rate assumes spatial significance when viewed from temporal perspective. The population growth of a region depends on two vital forces which constantly work. One of these forces is natural increase i.e. birth minus deaths and the other is migration which includes in- migration and out- migration (Ramesh)6. The population growth is the most fundamental demographic process with which all other demographic attributes are directly or indirectly associated. Therefore, geographic study of population growth of a region is of vital importance for understanding its dynamics as well as planning at

the local and regional levels.

Thus, the concept of net change or increase in population is caused by the interaction of four factors such as birth, death, in-migration and out-migration. Birth and in-migration increases the population growth whereas death and out-migration decreases the population growth. So the population growth or change is controlled by a relative strength of human fertility, human mortality and human migration.

THE STUDY AREA

The study area is a district, i.e. “Sangli District” in Maharashtra state of India. Its selection identifies and recognizes District as basis of the administrative system in India. A district is defined as territory marked off for a special administrative purpose (Oxford)⁷ and District Administration defined by Khera (1972)⁸, is the management of public affairs within a territory marked off such purpose. It is the most important of all the units in area administration.



The district of Sangli like Satara and Kolhapur is a Southern district of Maharashtra state. It lies between 16°40' and 17°33' North Latitude and 73°42' and 75°40' East longitude (Rammurthy)⁹, and has an area of 8572 sq. km. and Population of 25, 83,524 spread over in 9 tahsils, 721 inhabited villages, 3 uninhabited villages and 8 urban centers (Census, 2001)¹⁰. Of the 35 districts in Maharashtra state, Sangli district occupies 21st rank in area and 15th rank in population. Hence, it is smaller in area and medium sized in population.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To analyse the population changes of all villages during 1961 – 1971 in Sangli district.
2. To analyse the population changes of all villages during 1971 – 1981 in Sangli district.
3. To analyse the population changes of all villages during 1981 – 1991 in Sangli district.
4. To analyse the population changes of all villages during 1991 – 2001 in Sangli district.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present paper is entirely based on secondary data. The secondary data on Population Change have been gathered from Directorate of Census Operations, Maharashtra, Mumbai (1961 & 2001). The actual growth rate / population change of specific decade is obtained by dividing the difference between the population of two decades and multiplying it with hundred as under :

$$r = \frac{P_n - P_o}{P_o} \times 100$$

Where, r = rate of change in population.
 P_n = population at the end of the period.
 P_o = population at the beginning of the period.

POPULATION CHANGE IN VILLAGES (1961-2001)

During 1961-2001, 75.49 per cent of total population of Sangli live in the rural area that of state was 57.57 per cent. Secondly the village level data is of greater relevance both in study as well as in its application elsewhere. This data has therefore, been assembled for 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 – the five census recorded after the 'Birth of Maharashtra' on 1st may 1960. This is adopted because the census is deemed as the most valuable and authentic source of demography and also of formulating Population Geography.

While computing it has been observed that the number of villages increased from 525 in 1961 to 535 in 1971, one village merging in urban centre in 1961-1971 and 4 in 1971-1981. 173 new villages have been created by splitting 116 villages in 1981 census and the total numbers of villages become 708 in 1981. 20 new villages created after 1981 census, one village received the status of census town, one village transformed from Sangola tahsil of Solapur district, one village excluded and 5 villages submerged, resulting 727 villages remained in 1991 in the district. Finally this number has become 721 inhabited villages in 2001 census in the district. The following table shows the number of villages in each census years.

Table 1 represents the decadal variation in population in the villages of Sangli district, the study area, from 1961 to 2001 (4 decades). It also indicates the classification of villages according to their variation category, viz. low, moderate, high, very high and negative. This data has also been shown through fig 3.9 to enhance an insight into this aspect. What is immediately perceived is given as under:

Table 1
Sangli District : Decadal Population Variation in Villages (1961-2001)

Sr.No.	Decade	Percentage of Villages with Decade Variation				
		Positive (+ve)				Negative (-ve)
		Low (<10%)	Mod. (11-20%)	High (21-30%)	V.High (>31%)	
1	1961-71	14.09	35.05	29.91	16.38	4.57
2	1971-81	22.25	30.84	17.19	8.04	21.68
3	1981-91	21.71	32.29	19.86	17.57	8.57
4	91-2001	25.55	35.18	14.98	13.73	10.12

Source : computed by author.

I) Villages of Low Variation (0 – 10 per cent):

In the first decade (1961-71) only 14.09 per cent villages are confined to this category, but in the next three decades their percentages are increased between 21 per cent and 25 per cent.

II) Villages of Moderate Variation (11 per cent -20 per cent):

There finds a decadal consistency in the percentages of villages of moderate variation. One third of the villages (30-35 per cent) in the district show the moderate variation in their population in all the four decades.

III) Villages of High Variation (21 per cent-30 per cent):

The villages in this category show the sharp declining decadal trends in their percentages. As compared to first decade (29.91 per cent) their number reduced to half (14.98 per cent) in the last decade.

IV) Villages of Very High Variation (Above 31 per cent):

The percentages of Villages in this category show very high fluctuations, as it becomes half (8.04 per cent) in second decade than the first decade (16.38 per cent); whereas it again doubled (17.57 per cent) in the next decade and ultimately it reduced to 13.73 per cent in 1991-2001 decade.

V) Villages of Negative Variation:

It is evident from the Table 3.10 that each decade represents the villages of negative variation in their populations. As stated earlier the decade 1971-1981 is witnessed the splitting up of 116 villages into 173 new villages in the district, resulting the negative population variation in old villages. Owing to this situation the decade 1981-91 witnessed 8.57 per cent villages, whereas 10.12 per cent villages during 1991-2001 are marked by negative variation in their population.

SUMMARY

Population change is an aspect of vital interest in every-day life as well as at other levels of consideration and analysis. The micro-level study of all the 721 inhabited villages in the study area - Sangli district - exhibits spatio-temporal changes in their population. During a span of 40 years the total number of inhabited villages has increased from 525 in 1961 to 721 in 2001, by splitting some villages. Due to this the population of many villages has also split up resulting a negative population variation; and hence each decade is endowed with the villages of negative population change. In this regard the decade 1971-1981 is worth mentioning as it shows as many as 173 new villages have been created in the district. The average decadal variation in rural population in these 4 decades is accounted +17.03 per cent, while it is more than double (+35 per cent) as far as urban population variation is concerned. This is mainly because of the migration of people from villages to urban centers for seeking jobs and employment.

However, it may be noted that the geographical factors like climate (temperature and rainfall), physiography, soil, drainage, etc.; while the demographic factors like fertility, mortality and migration affected the spatial patterns and temporal changes in the population variation in the study area. The economic activities, industrial growth, transportation, communication, educational facilities, social attributes, ethics, regional imbalances, levels of development, are the other factors responsible for variation in population change.

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