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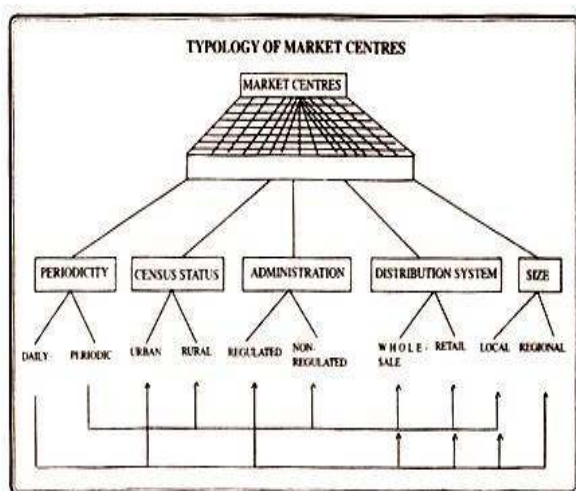
DISTRIBUTION AND PERIODICITY OF MARKET CENTRES IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT



Khan A.I.¹ and Kakde A. B.²

¹Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography, Government College, Aurangabad .

²Research Student, Dept. of Geography, Dr.B.A. M. University, Aurangabad.



ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made in this paper to study the distribution and periodicity of the market centres in the Ahmednagar district. Market centres are the basic and root level centre of the economic and commercial activities. The observation reveals that, there is uneven distribution and periodicity of the market centres in the study region.

KEYWORDS: Market centres, Distribution, Periodicity.

INTRODUCTION :

Geographical studies are mainly concerned with the special distribution of geographical phenomena. In case of market centres, origin, growth, development, and spatial distribution are the result of combined effect of various factors. It means the distribution of market centres are influenced by physical, cultural, historical and many other unique qualities prevailing in the region. In recent years, rural markets have acquired significance in countries like China and India, as the overall growth of the economy has resulted into substantial increase in the purchasing power of the rural communities.

Periodicity of market centre is an important aspect of market centre. It is the periodicity of the market centres that makes them beneficial to producers, consumers and traders. The occurrence of periodic markets on some specific day is a special feature of many rural regions. Markets are held periodically on some specific day or days of the week at some fixed sites. Thus it provides goods and services to the rural masses. The periodicity of market centres has been disturbed somehow by transformation of the economy and rapid growth of urbanization and was replaced by permanent shops or markets in developed area.

STUDY REGION:

Ahmednagar district is the largest district of Maharashtra state in western India. This district is known for the town of Shirdi associated with Sai Baba. Ahmednagar district is part of Nashik Division. The neighbouring districts to Ahmednagar district are Solapur (South East - SE), Osmanabad (SE),

Beed (SE), Aurangabad (NE), Nashik (NW), Thane (NW), and Pune(SW). In the 2011 census, Ahmednagar district recorded a population of 4,543,083. This gave it a ranking of 33rd among the districts of India (out of a total of 640). The district had a population density of 266 inhabitants per square kilometre (690 /sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 12.43%. Ahmednagar had a sex ratio of 934 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 80.22%

OBJECTIVES:

The present study has specific objective, i.e. To study and analyze the distribution and periodicity of market centers in Ahmednagar district. These are daily, weekly, bi-weekly and tri-weekly market centers.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present work is based on primary and secondary data pertaining to market centers and population. All relevant published and unpublished records have been considered. Primary data is collected through intensive field work. The secondary data has been collected from district census hand book, Gazetteer, district statistical abstracts, socio-economic abstracts and records of villages.

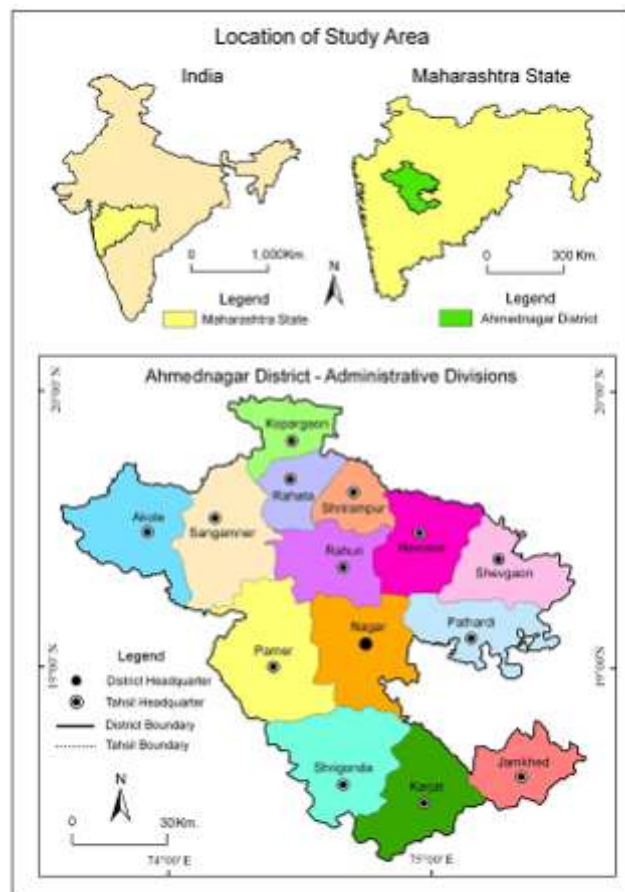


Table 1
Periodicity of Market Centres in Ahmednagar district

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Periodicity		Total
		Weekly	Daily	
1	Akole	3	1	4
2	Sangamner	3	1	4
3	Kopargaon	5	1	6
4	Rahta	7	2	9
5	Shrirampur	5	1	6
6	Nevasa	5	1	6
7	Shegaon	1	1	2
8	Pathardi	0	1	1
9	Ahmednagar	4	1	5
10	Rahuri	5	1	6
11	Parner	1	1	2
12	Shrigonda	3	1	4
13	Karjat	2	1	3
14	Jamkhed	1	1	2
	District Total	45	15	60

Source: Calculated by researcher.

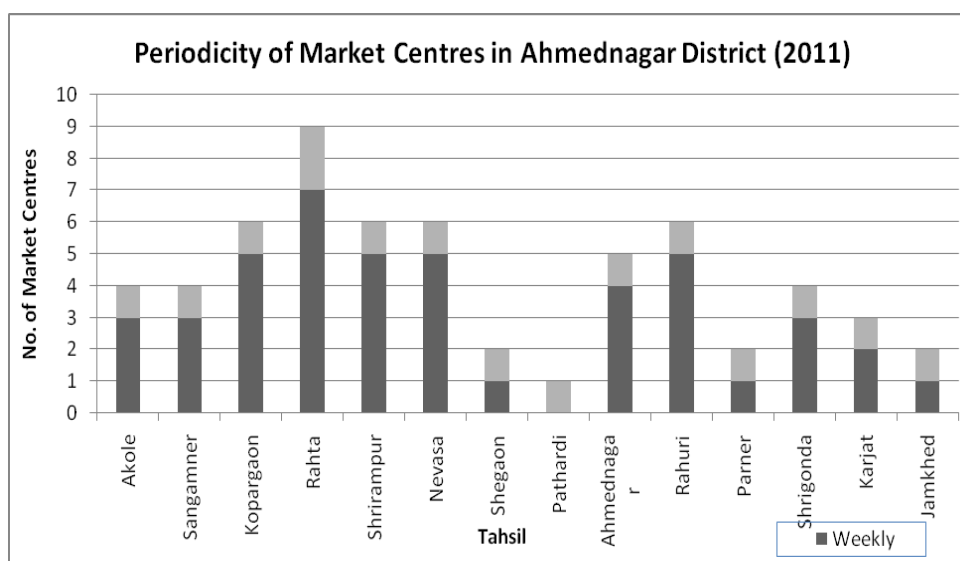


Table 1 reveals that there are total 60 market centres in the district. Out of total 60 market centre, there are 15 daily market centres whereas 45 weekly market centre. Highest number of market centres are observed in Rahta tahsil i.e. 7 on the contrary lowest number of market centres are observed in Shegaon, Parner and Jamkhed tahsil i.e. 1. Pathardi tahsil has no weekly market centre since the taluka place Pathardi has daily market meeting.

In regard with daily market centres, all the tahsil places has daily market meeting. Except Rahta tahsil which has two daily market meeting centres. There are total 15 daily market centres in the district. On the whole it is clear that, there are 15 (25%) daily market centre whereas 45 (63.57%) market centres are weekly.

CONCLUSION:

Overall analysis of the market centres in the district shows that, there is uneven distribution of market centres in the study region. No bi-weekly and tri-weekly market centres are found in the region.

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Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
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