



Population Aspects and Growth in Ahmednagar District of Maharashtra State-A Geographical Study

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Abstract

Twentieth century is witnessed unprecedented demographic change of because of socio-economic condition of region. Population is itself a resource. Unplanned population growth within region is responsible for shortage of food, shelter, water, transport, education, health services and other socio-economic amenities resulting imbalance sex ratio, marital status, fertility, mortality, age structure, migration and occupation structure. Overpopulation is basic problem in south Asian countries including India. It leads to shortage of food, unemployment, poor health, poor public services and degradation of environment. To overcome above issues there is urgent need to stabilize increasing size of population. Size of population, density of population, sex ratio and literacy is the major aspects of population to understand the socio-economic development of an area as well as future planning. In the present paper Ahmednagar district is selected as study area which is suffering population explosion issues. The present study is focused on decadal growth rate and projected growth of population characteristics. Decadal growth rate of population is 12.44 percent. Tehsil wise trend of decadal growth of population characteristic shows tremendous variation.

Key words: decadal growth, annual growth, population density, sex ratio

Introduction

“The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man.” (Thomas Malthus, 1798). Population is the major element because population play vital role in the development of region. The growth of population, its structure and composition affect on social and economic conditions. Population is one of the resources. Unplanned population growth within region is responsible for shortage of food, shelter, water, transport, education, health services and other socio-economic amenities resulting as imbalance in sex ratio, marital status, fertility, mortality, age structure, migration and occupation structure. Many geographical studies have described and compared the size, structure, characteristics, distribution and changes of population through time. The population structure and population characteristics include marital status, literacy, educational status and labourers force, etc. These may change through social mobility (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2003).

Population characteristics are the basic tools to study the socio-economic development of an area. Moreover, population projection has been used for planning to ensure provision of basic needs as well as health, education and employment. The present study makes an attempt to study the population characteristics such as size of population, density of population, sex ratio and literacy of Ahmednagar district. The study is based on census data for the year 2001-2011 with emphasis on analysing trends in decadal and projected growth. In study region more than 70 percent of population depends on agriculture for employment and livelihood. Agriculture of the district is mainly depends on monsoon rainfall. Poor or failure of monsoon leads to reduce the productivity of agriculture, it adverse effect on economy of district as well as increase the rate migration. It effects on social relation and literacy.



Study Area

Ahmednagar district is situated partly in upper Godavari basin and partly in Bhima basin occupying in central west part in Maharashtra state. It extends from 180 10' to 200 00' north latitudes and 730 30' to 750 37' east longitudes (Fig.-1.1). It is flanked by Igatpuri, Sinnar and Yeola talukas in Nashik district in north, Vajapur, Gangapur and Paithan talukas of Aurangabad district and Georai, Beed and Ashti talukas of Beed district in east, Bhum and Paranda talukas in Osmanabad district and Karmala takuka in Solapur district in south, Junnar, Shirur, Daund and Indapur talukas of Pune district and Murbad, Sahapur talukas of Thane district in west. Climate of the district is hot summer and general dryness throughout the year except monsoon season. Average annual rainfall of the district is 583 mm. The district lies in the rain shadow zone of western ghat. Due to this distribution of rainfall is very uneven and erratic in nature. Seasonal variation in temperature is quite large. The range of temperature is in between 11.7°C to 38.9° C. The population of study area stood at 45,43,159 in 2011 (Census, 2011). District accounts 4.04 percent population of the total population of Maharashtra state. However, population density is 267 persons per sq. km.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this research paper is to study the demographic characteristics of Ahmednagar istrict.

- 1.Examining the physical background of Ahmednagar district.
- 2.To examine the decadal growth rate of population, density of population, sex ratio and literacy rate of Ahmednagar district.
- 3.To examine the growth of population characteristics in study area.

Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data obtained from government and non-government sources. Information related to size of population, density of population, sex ratio and literacy rate has been collected from socio- economic review and district statistical abstract of Ahmednagar district for the year 2001 and 2011.

Structure and Composition of Population

Table 1 Show the structure and composition of the population of Ahmednagar district.

Table 1: Structure and composition of population in Ahmednagar district

Sr. No	Population Features	Year		Decadal growth rate in % (2001 - 2011)
		2001	2011	
1.	Total population	4040642	4543159	12.44
a.	Male	2083053	2342825	12.47
b.	Female	1957598	2200334	12.40
2.	Population Density	232	267	15.09
a.	Rural	191	217	13.61
b.	Urban	1682	1956	16.29
3.	Sex Ratio	940	939	-0.11
a.	Rural	948	938	-1.05
b.	Urban	908	942	3.74
4.	Literacy	64.31	79.05	22.92
a.	Male	72.83	86.82	19.21
b.	Female	55.25	70.89	28.31

Source: Socio-economic review and district statistical abstract (2001 and 2011)

It determines the socio-economic conditions and stage of development of the society and also decide the processes and levels of resource utilization. Balanced development in structure and composition of population is the sign of overall development of the region. In the year 2001, the total population of the district was 4040642 persons, which increased to 4543159 persons in the decade 2001-2011 with the decadal growth rate of 12.44 percent. It is less than the decadal growth rate of India and Maharashtra, which is 17.64 percent and 16.01 percent respectively during the same time span. Decadal growth rate of male population was more than female population, which is 12.47 and 12.40 percent respectively.

Density of population means land-man ratio. Increase in density of population indicate decline the ratio of land-man. It leads to adverse effects on agriculture, environment and public services. Density of population of Ahmednagar district is 232 persons per sq.km. in the year 2001. It sharply increases to 267 persons per sq.km in the year 2011. Density of population is increased by 15.09 percent during the decade (2001–2011). Population density of urban and rural is 1956 and 217 respectively (Census, 2011), which increased by 16.29 and 13.61 percent respectively during the decade. Sex ratio is helpful to policy formation regarding education, health and economy. Moreover, it is important for understanding social and gender related issues. It directly effects on marital status, migration and birth rate. Table 1 depict the sax ratio of district is unbalanced. It leads to increase in social and gender conflicts. Sex ratio of the district is 940 in the year 2001. It slightly decreases in the year 2011. It is same as the country's sex ratio, which is 940 females per thousand male (Census, 2011). Sex ratio of the district decreases by 0.11 percent during the decade. The urban sex ratio is 908 in the year 2001. It increases by 3.74 percent during the decade.

Literacy is the indicator of social as well as economic development of region. Higher the rate of literacy means higher the rate of development and vise versa. Literacy rate of the district shows positive change, it increases by 22.92 percent during the decade. In the year 2011 literacy rate of the district is 79.05 percent. It is better than the country's literacy rate, which is 74.0 percent (Census, 2011). Decadal growth of literacy rate of female is more than male which is 19.21 percent and 28.31 percent respectively.

Tehsil wise decadal growth rate of population characteristics

Table 1.2 reveals the tehsil wise decadal growth of population.

Table 2: Tehsil wise decadal growth rate of population characteristics (2001 - 2011)
(Values in percentage)

Sr. No	Tehsil	Population	Density of population	Sex ratio	Literacy rate
1	Akole	9.49	9.60	0.02	7.02
2	Sangamner	10.53	12.36	-0.19	5.96
3	Kopargaon	9.12	12.30	1.41	6.98
4	Rahata	11.17	22.89	0.25	4.89
5	Shrirampur	12.10	26.22	1.40	5.34
6	Newasa	9.53	13.58	-0.30	6.34
7	Shevgaon	20.64	14.72	-0.04	5.55
8	Pathradi	20.12	21.47	-2.67	6.12
9	Nagar	12.75	20.63	3.30	2.02
10	Rahuri	9.46	11.23	-0.04	5.49
11	Parner	11.20	14.84	-3.38	5.78
12	Shrigonda	13.92	13.87	-1.74	2.98
13	Karjat	14.64	15.33	-2.09	4.06
14	Jamkhed	18.00	18.30	-3.01	7.12

Source: Compiled by researcher



All the tehsils recorded positive trend, which is range from 9.12 to 20.64 percent. Highest decadal growth rate recorded in tehsils of Shevgaon (20.64 percent) and Patherdi (20.12 percent) and lowest is in Kopergaon (9.12 percent) followed by Rahuri (9.46 percent) and Akole (9.49 percent). Decadal growth rate of population density indicate that there is considerable variation at tehsil level (table 2). All the tehsil recorded positive decadal growth of population density. It indicates increase in the pressure of population on land. Decadal growth rate of population density varies from 9.60 percent in Rahata to 26.22 percent in Shrirampur. Above 20 percent growth rate recorded in tehsils of Rahata (22.89 percent) Patherdi (21.47 percent) and Nagar (20.63 percent), while rest of the tehsils recorded growth rate 11 percent to 15 percent.

Most of the tehsils recorded negative decadal growth rate of sex ratio (table 2). It indicates that in future gender conflicts emerge as a new issue in district. Only five tehsils namely Akole (0.02 percent), Rahata (0.25 percent), Shrirampur (1.40 percent), Kopergaon (1.41) and Nagar (3.30 percent) have recorded positive growth while maximum negative growth rate noticed in Jamkhed tehsil. Literacy indicates the quality of manpower. It is the reliable index of the socio- economic development and demographic growth of region. Table 2 indicates the spatial pattern of decadal growth of literacy. It shows that all tehsil recorded positive growth, which varies from 2.02 percent to 7.12 percent. Tehsil Jamkhed noticed highest growth rate (7.12 percent) while tehsil Nagar recorded lowest growth rate which is 2.02 percent.

Conclusion

Population growth is the important issues in Ahmednagar district, where more than 70 percent population depends on agriculture. It is observed that overpopulation in Ahmednagar district is posing serious threats by creating problems like food inflation, unemployment and environmental degradation. Thus, there is an urgent need to control population in district with the help of creating awareness among the people. The estimated growth of population shows socio-economic sustainability of district is at risk. In rural area increase the pressure of population on Agriculture. Due to this number of marginal workers increase. In urban area will going to face the problems of overpopulation such as increasing slums, inadequate facilities of water, education, health, basic infrastructure etc..

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