



Settlements Pattern in Ahmednagar District: A Geographical Study

Laxman Baburao Patekar
Research Student

Introduction:

Among the basic needs of human being, shelter is one of the most important basic necessities. These shelter places become the most concrete expressions of human cultural activity and assume various forms as well as names. The unit of settlement, however, may range from a slum dwelling to bungalow of big city. The ultimate goal of human activity is his own welfare while settling somewhere on the earth.

Settlement are human dwelling of various sizes distributed in Geographic space by a set of occupational forces within the environmental consideration related to water supply, fertile soils, and safe location. The distributional characters of settlement refer to their frequency and spatial organization in a given space. It is also attempted to study the size of villages, urban centres and their characteristics.

R.L. Singh point out that, the settlement depends for its maintenance and life or many things outside its limits. It is a living organism depends for its vitality not only on its internal resources but also on its capacity to tap the sap for its growth from a vast area surrounding it.



Table 1

Settlement Pattern in Ahmednagar District (2011)

Tahsil	Number of villages	Number of Towns	Number of households	Total Population
Ahmednagar	106	6	144736	684044
Akole	190	1	59284	291950
Jamkhed	86	1	33706	158380
Karjat	120	1	50056	235792
Kopargaon	80	1	60680	302452
Nevasa	129	0	72789	357829
Parner	131	0	56476	274167
Pathardi	134	1	51984	258109
Rahta	58	2	64711	320485
Rahuri	96	2	64707	322823
Sangamner	170	2	95452	487939
Shevgaon	112	0	50873	245714
Shrigonda	114	1	65644	315975
Shrirampur	55	1	58926	287500
Ahmednagar District	1,581	19	930024	4543159

Source: DSA, Ahmednagar, 2011

As per table 1, there are 1,581 villages in the Ahmednagar district. Highest number of villages is observed in Akole tahsil (190) whereas lowest number of villages is observed in Shirampur tahsil (55). Rahuri, Jamkhed, Kopargaon, Rahta and Shirampur tahsils has less than 100 villages whereas above 100 villages is observed in Akola, Sangamner, Pathardi, Parner, Nevasa, Karjat, Shrigonda, Shevgaon and Ahmednagar tahsil. Regarding towns or the major city of the district, Ahmednagar or Ahmednagar is the most populous and headquarters of the district. It provides all kinds of services to the district. No town has been observed for Nevasa, Shevgaon and Parner tahsil. In regard with other tahsils, Ahmednagar tahsil has 6 towns whereas Sangamner, Rahta, Rahuri has 2 towns each. Akole, Kopargaon, Shirampur, Pathardi, Shrigonda, Karjat and Jamkhed has 1 town each.

As per 2011 census, there were 930024 households in Ahmednagar district. Highest households in the district i.e. 144736 have been observed from Ahmednagar tahsil whereas least households has been observed from Jamkhed tahsil i.e. 33706. Above 60,000 households were noticed from Ahmednagar, Sangamner, Nevasa, Shrigonda, Rahta, Rahuri and Kopargaon tahsil whereas below 60,000 households were observed from Akole, Shrirampur, Parner, Pathardi, Shevgaon, Karjat and Jamkhed tahsil.

Table 2

**Ahmednagar District: Villages, Population and Size Group
(Census 2011)**

Tahsil	No. of Villages	Population size				
		Below 500	500 to 2000	2000 to 5000	5000 to 10,000	Above 10,000
Ahmednagar	106	1	37	34	28	6
Akole	190	21	134	30	2	3
Jamkhed	86	4	68	10	3	1
Karjat	120	5	76	34	1	4
Kopargaon	80	1	33	35	7	4
Nevasa	129	9	53	51	11	5
Parner	131	10	72	40	7	2
Pathardi	134	8	79	43	3	1
Rahta	58	1	18	19	13	7
Rahuri	96	3	49	33	8	3
Sangamner	170	6	71	79	12	2
Shevgaon	112	6	68	31	5	2
Shrigonda	114	6	58	39	8	3
Shrirampur	55	0	20	18	15	2
Ahmednagar District	1,581 (5.12)	81 (52.88)	836 (31.37)	496 (7.78)	123 (2.85)	45 (5.12)

Source: DSA, Ahmednagar, 2011

Table 2 attempts analysis of the village pattern according to certain population size group. There were 5.12% villages with a population of less than 500. In this category Akole recorded highest number of villages (21) and 1



village each has been observed from tahsils like Kopergaon, Rahta and Ahmednagar. Not a single village has been observed in this category from Shrirampur tahsil. The medium size villages with population size of 500-2000 were 52.88%, which form a major population size in the district. In this category, highest number of villages has been observed in Akole tahsil (134) whereas lowest in Rahta tahsil (18).

Further, there were 31.67% villages with a population size of 2000-5000. In this category, highest number of villages has been observed in Sangamner tahsil (79) whereas lowest in Jamkhed tahsil (10). The large size villages with more than 5000-10000 population were only 7.78 %. Highest number of village i.e. 28 has been noticed from Ahmednagar tahsil and whereas only 1 village has been observed in Karjat tahsil. Above 10,000 population group has only 45 villages (2.85 %) in the study region. Rahta tahsil ranks first with 7 villages in this category whereas least villages have been observed from Jamkhed and Pathardi villages.

References:

- 1) Sawant S.B. (1979), "Trends of Rural Transformation in Pune District", Deccan Geographer Vol. XCIII
- 2) Singh R. Y. (1998), "Geography of Settlements", Rawat Publication New Delhi
- 3) Mandal R.B. (2001), "Introduction to Rural Settlements", Concept Publication Company New Delhi.
- 4) Prasad Rajendra (1990), "Population Geography of India", Radha Publications New Delhi