



## **An Assessment of Population Growth in Maharashtra State (Census 1901 to 2011)**

**Mr. Theng S.J.**

Research Student

### **Introduction:**

The concept of population change or growth of population is often used to connote the change in the number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time, irrespective of the fact that whether the change is negative or positive. The growth of population means any change in population number, further it refers to the growth of the human population in a particular area during a specific period of time, if this change is in negative direction then population decreases and if it is in positive direction then the population increases. Thus, the population growth is the most deep-seated demographic process and all other demographic features are allied with it either directly or indirectly. Geographical study of population growth of a region, therefore, is of a vital importance for understanding its dynamics as well as planning at the local and regional levels.

A systematic census was organized in the year 1891 in the country. Maharashtra state came into existence in the year 1960. Some districts were newly created between the year 1960 to 2015. Table 3.1 presents the decadal growth pattern of population in Maharashtra State since 1901 to 2011 and also of India. The statistics of India has also shown for comparative purpose.

Table No. 1  
**Decadal Growth of Maharashtra State Population Compared  
(Census 1901 to 2011)**

Decade	Population		Growth Rate of Population (%)	
	India	Maharashtra State	India	Maharashtra State
1901	238396327	19391643	--	--
1911	252093390	21474523	5.75	10.74
1921	251321213	20849666	-0.31	-2.91
1931	278977238	23959300	11.00	14.91
1941	318660580	26832758	14.22	11.99
1951	361088090	32002564	13.31	19.27
1961	439234771	39553718	21.64	23.60
1971	548159652	50412235	24.80	27.45
1981	683329097	62693898	24.66	24.36
1991	846421039	78937187	23.87	25.91
2001	1028737436	96878627	21.54	22.73
2011	1210193422	112372972	17.64	15.99

Source: Census Handbook 1991, 2001 & 2011.



Table 1 shows the increasing trend of population in Maharashtra State as well as Maharashtra state. According to 1901 census, total population of Maharashtra state was 19391143 and it increased upto 112372972 in 2011. It means in last century, the population of the Maharashtra state increased by 5.79 times and the percentage increase is 479.49. In compare to India, census 1901 recorded population of 238396327 which increased upto 1210193422 in the census of 2011. It clearly indicates that, it has been increased by 5.08 times and the percentage increase is 407.64. Comparison of India and Maharashtra state shows that, population growth rate of Maharashtra state is higher than the country.

Highest growth rate of Maharashtra state population was observed from 1971 census, i.e. 27.45% whereas lowest increase was observed from 1911, i.e. 10.74%. Negative growth rate was observed in 1921 and that was -2.91%. Census 1921 has shown negative trend all over the India.

The abandon increase rate in population is observed before and after independence. Categorization of percentage growth reveals that, below 15% growth in Maharashtra state population has been observed from census of 1931 (14.91%), 1941 (11.99%) and 1911 (10.74%) whereas 15% to 25% growth has been observed from the census of 1981 (24.36%), 1961 (23.60%), 2001 (22.73%), 1951 (19.27%), and 2011 (15.99%). Remaining census like 1971 & 1991 has shown above 30% growth rate in population. Regarding percentage growth of population, it shown ups and down from the census 1901 to 2011.

At the conclusion, comparison of both Maharashtra state and India shows that, Maharashtra State has overall less population growth rate than India.



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