



Population Characteristics of Aurangabad District: A Geographical Perspective

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Introduction:

Man is most active element in the process of agricultural development. Land use gets modified based on the needs of the population. Population growth and literacy are instrumental in bringing about agricultural change in an agrarian society. These exist best in each others company, hunger make men willing to work, and new ideas give them incentive for action. The physical attributes of an area become resources, only when its people are able to use them. The relationship between population and land use is very close. Therefore, growth of population, rural population, density of population, man-land ratio, sex ratio, literacy, farm workers are considered in the context of agriculture in the study region.

GROWTH OF POPULATION

Population of the district increased from 4.42 lakh in 1901 to 28.97 lakh persons in 2001, with net addition of 24.55 lakh mouths. From 1901 to 1911 the population increased by 20.13 percent, but in the preceding decade it decreased by 18.07 percent due to many natural calamities, such as failure of rainfall, wide spread of cholera etc. But population increased in every decade, after 1921 with varying rates. Highest increase occurred during 1991-91 population (25.70% State growth) when it registered a rise of 39.62 percent followed by 30.90 percent (22.60 % State population growth) during 1991-2001.



This continuous increase was made possible by provisions of improved health and supply of sufficient food, and later by various development measures. Gangapur which have registered high growth of both population and net area sown While Soygaon tahsil has shown the lowest growth rate of 16.08 percent. It is basically agricultural tahsil and growth of population and cropped area is closely associated there.

The decadal variation in population growth rate of Khuldabad, Kannad, Sillod were 21.59%, 24.90%, 18.18% respectively. The population growth rate in Aurangabad and Gangapur tahsil are recorded above the district (30.90%) average and remaining tahsils have the below population growth rate in the same period reveals that below 20 percent growth rate of population was recorded in Soygaon, Sillod, Paithan and Vaijapur tahsil. About 20percent to 40 percent growth rate of population was noticed in Kannada Khuldabad and Gangapur tahsil. Above 40 percent population growth rate was registered in Aurangabad during 1991-2001.

PROPORTION OF RURAL POPULATION

Rural-urban ratio in any given area directly influences the nature, character and function of the regional agriculture. Aurangabad district is an overwhelmingly agricultural district, where about 62.45 (2001) percent of the population is rural, which is directly associated with the agriculture. Rural population was 67.24 percent in 1991, as against the 62.45 in 2001. It means that there is 4.79 percent decrease in rural population since 1991 to 2001 census. There is found one tahsil without even a single urban centre (Soygaon tahsil). All tahsils are recorded above 85 percent rural population except Aurangabad tahsil in 2001.



DENSITY OF POPULATION

The density of population is largely related to the productivity of land. It is particularly true for rural population. As such fertile valleys and plains, which have been widely cultivated, are major areas of human concentration. Contrary to them, areas with limitations for agricultural activities are sparsely populated. The overall better rural population densities are the result of better resources of water and soil. With the ever increasing population, where more land is put under intensive and permanent cultivation.

Much more food is needed than ever before to feed the increasing population, including an ever growing number of non agriculturists in rural and semi-urban areas. Land use and farming methods have assumed great significance. Population increase progressively shortens the interval between successive cropping. Multiple and relentless cropping exhausts the fertility of the soils. Therefore, it is essential to determine the extent of population pressure on land and changes there in for drawing a plan for optimum use of land Tahsil wise Different Densities in Aurangabad District.

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