



Population Structure of Akola District: A Geographical Review

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Introduction:

Population structure generally includes age-structure, sex ratio, economic structure or occupation structure, social & demographic structure of a region. These all aspects control the population structure and its development. Franklin rightly observes that sex ratio was an index of economy prevailing in an area and was useful tool for regional analysis. The profound effect of the proportion of the two sexes upon the other demographic elements like population growth, marriage rates, occupational structure has also been organized. Age is an important variable in measuring potential school population, potential voting population, potential manpower, future population projections and projections for the requirements of teachers, doctors, technical hands, armed personnel etc. Occupational structure affects the economy of the country. The study of population structure is incomplete without reference to the occupational composition of population. The economic prosperity can better be known by knowing the occupational distribution of population of a country. More working population in the country supports faster economic development and prosperity whereas less working population can cause poverty or low economic condition.

Study Region:

Akola District lies between 20°15' and 21°20'-north latitude and 76°30' and 77°45' east longitudes. It is surrounded by Washim District in the south and Buldana District in the west. In the north and east it is bounded by Amravati District. The District headquarters is located at Akola, town having a population of 425,817 persons. It is a railway junction, located on the Broad gauge railway line running from Mumbai to Howrah and the meter gauge line running from Khandwa to Hingoli. Akola District is also well connected by roads from the other parts of the country. The District has an area of 5,672.81 sq.kms. and a population of 1,813,906 persons as recorded in Census 2011. While the area of the District accounts for 1.84 percent of the total area of the State, the Districts population constitutes 1.61 percent of the total population of the State. The density of population is 320 persons per sq. km. Among the 35 Districts of the State, the District ranks 28 th in the terms of area, 25 in terms of population and 13 in terms of density.

**Population Structure:****Growth of Population:**

During 2001–11, the decadal growth rate of total population of Akola District is reported as 11.3, the lowest since 1961. The decadal growth of total population has witnessed a declining trend since 1971. During the decade 1951 – 1961, the growth rate was 19.55 percent and increased to 25.02 percent during the decade 1961 – 1971. Since then, the decadal growth rate of population has been declining steadily. The growth rate by residence records 9.2 percent in rural and 14.7 percent in urban. Thus, the decadal growth of population in urban areas is higher than the rural areas. The urban population has registered higher growth in the decade 2001-11 as compared to its rural population in all Tahsils except Murtijapur and Patur. The proportion of urban population to total population of Akola District has increased to 39.7 percent in Census 2011, from 38.5 percent in Census 2001. It is significant to note that the proportion of urban population to the total population in Akola Tahsil is 68.2 percent, highest in the District. The proportion of rural-urban composition of population has shown marginal variation in all the Tahsils.

Sex Ratio:

it is significant to note that the sex ratio in urban areas of the District is higher by 14 points as compared to rural areas. Out of the 7 Tahsils of the District Barshitakli Tahsil has no qualifying area to be classified as urban. Out of remaining 6 Tahsils in case of 5 Tahsils, the sex ratio in urban areas is reported to be higher than that of rural areas. Within the District, Akola Tahsil has reported highest sex ratio 949 and Barshitakli Tahsil has reported the lowest sex ratio 935. In case of urban areas, the highest sex ratio 984 has been reported in Murtijapur Tahsil and the Patur Tahsil has reported the lowest sex ratio 939.

Literacy:

The effective literacy rate for Akola District in Census 2011 is 88.05. The corresponding figures of literacy rate for males and females are 92.34 and 83.54 respectively. Thus, the gap of 8.80 points is recorded between male and female literacy rates in Census 2011. The analysis of literacy rate by residence shows that the effective literacy rate in urban areas 91.23 which is higher than same in rural areas 85.95. Thus, the gap of 5.28 points is recorded between urban and rural literacy rates. The male and female literacy rate in rural areas is 91.25 and 80.32 respectively. Thus, the gap between male and female literacy rate in rural areas is 10.93 points. Similarly, the male and female literacy rate in urban areas is 93.99 and 88.36 respectively making a gap between male and female literacy rate to be 5.63 points. It is significant that the gap between male and female literacy rate in rural areas is still about twice than that of urban areas.

**Villages by Population Range:**

The classification of villages in Akola District in broader general classes shows that 30.67 percent of total inhabited villages inhabiting 6.34 percent of total rural population are Small Sized Villages. Further, 54.86 percent of total inhabited villages inhabiting 44.09 percent of total rural population are Medium Sized Villages. It is significant to note that only 4 percent of total inhabited 39 villages are classified as Large Sized Villages, however, they inhabit 26.64 percent of total rural population. The Extremely Large Sized Villages are merely 3.36 percent of total inhabited villages, but, they inhabit 22.93 percent of total rural population. It signifies that fewer numbers of Large Sized Villages are more populous in rural areas. Few of these villages satisfying laid down criterion would potentially be classified as Census Towns in coming decades.

Similarly, Barshitakli Tahsil with 66.67 percent of total inhabited has reported highest composition of Medium Sized Villages whereas Akot with 45.95 percent has reported the lowest. Further, Patur Tahsil with 19.77 percent of total inhabited villages has reported highest composition of Large Sized Villages and it is lowest in Barshitakli Tahsil with 3.17 percent. Balapur Tahsil with 5.68 percent of total inhabited villages has highest composition of Exceptionally Large Sized Villages where as Patur with 2.33 has reported lowest. In absolute terms, 739 villages of 864 inhabited villages of the District are either Small Sized or Medium Sized Villages. The remaining 125 villages are either Large Sized or Exceptionally Large Sized Villages.

SC & ST Population:

The population of Scheduled Caste is 3,64,059 constituting 20.07 percent and that of Scheduled Tribe is 1,00,280 constituting 5.53 percent of the total population. In rural areas of the District, the proportion of Scheduled Caste population to total population of the District is 23.18 percent and in urban areas it is 15.35 percent. On the other hand, the proportion of Scheduled Tribe in rural areas is more than thrice the proportion of Scheduled Tribe in urban areas, thus, it is significant. In urban areas of the District, the proportion of Scheduled Tribe to the total population of the District is reported to be 2.03 percent and in rural areas it is 7.83 percent.

Working - Non Working Ratio:

Akola District recorded the work participation rate of 42.35. The work participation rate of males and females is 55.81 and 28.11 respectively. The percentage of non-workers in the District is recorded to be 57.65. Further distribution of total workers into main workers and marginal workers shows that 38.1 percent are main workers and 4.25 percent are marginal workers. Thus, majority of the workers have been engaged in economically productive activity for more than six months or more in the preceding one year of the Census.



The distribution of workers by sex shows that 51.58 percent males and 23.83 percent females are main workers. Further, 4.23 percent males and 4.27 percent females are marginal workers. Thus, it is evident that while the gap in male and female work participation rate in case of main workers is significant, it is very narrow in case of marginal workers. Similar analysis of non-workers shows that 71.89 percent of females and 44.19 percent of males are non-workers. Thus, considerable proportion of females are reported to be non-workers as compared to males.

Conclusion:

Overall analysis reveals that, The proportion of urban population to total population of Akola District has increased to 39.7 percent in Census 2011, from 38.5 percent in Census 2001. It is significant to note that the proportion of urban population to the total population in Akola Tahsil is 68.2 percent, highest in the District. The effective literacy rate for Akola District in Census 2011 is 88.05. The population of Scheduled Caste is 3,64,059 constituting 20.07 percent and that of Scheduled Tribe is 1,00,280 constituting 5.53 percent of the total population. The work participation rate of males and females is 55.81 and 28.11 respectively. Akola District recorded the work participation rate of 42.35.

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