



Spatio - Temporal Growth of Population: A Case Study of Ahmednagar District (Census 1991 to 2011)

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Introduction:

Population change or growth is an important index of a region's economic development, social awakening, historical and cultural background and political ideology. Population growth is, thus, pivotal to the region's demographic dynamism. The growth of population is one of the major factors related with man's habitation. In other words, it flows in size from time to time and people move around temporarily or permanently both within the administrative boundaries and across them. Thus the understanding of population change is the key to understanding the entire demographic structure of the entire area.

Study Region:

Ahmednagar district is the largest district of Maharashtra state. Ahmednagar district is a part of Nashik Division. The neighbouring districts to Ahmednagar district are Solapur (South East - SE), Osmanabad (SE), Beed (SE), Aurangabad (NE), Nashik (NW), Thane (NW), and Pune (SW).

As per 2011 census, Ahmednagar district recorded a population of 4,543,083 which ranks of 33rd among the districts of India (out of total 640). The district had a population density of 266 inhabitants per square kilometer (690 /sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 12.43%. Ahmednagar had a sex ratio of 934 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 80.22%

**Population Growth Pattern in Ahmednagar District:**

Analysis of growth of population has been shown in table 1. For better understanding, tahsilwise (14 tahsils) and census-wise (1991, 2001, 2011) data has been considered. This has helped researcher to compare the data with each other.

Table 1
Ahmednagar District: Tahsil-wise Growth of Population (1991-2011)

| Sr. No | Tahsil | Population | | | Actual growth | | Growth in percentage | |
|--------|----------------|------------|---------|---------|---------------|--------|----------------------|-------|
| | | 1991 | 2001 | 2011 | 2001 | 2011 | 2001 | 2011 |
| 1 | Ahmednagar | 482884 | 606690 | 684044 | 123806 | 77354 | 25.64 | 12.75 |
| 2 | Akole | 222153 | 266638 | 291950 | 44485 | 25312 | 20.02 | 9.49 |
| 3 | Jamkhed | 119278 | 134216 | 158380 | 14938 | 24164 | 12.52 | 18.00 |
| 4 | Karjat | 184331 | 205674 | 235792 | 21343 | 30118 | 11.58 | 14.64 |
| 5 | Kopargaon | 337387 | 277170 | 302452 | -60217 | 25282 | -17.85 | 9.12 |
| 6 | Nevasa | 273075 | 326698 | 357829 | 53623 | 31131 | 19.64 | 9.53 |
| 7 | Parner | 214064 | 246552 | 274167 | 32488 | 27615 | 15.18 | 11.20 |
| 8 | Pathardi | 185845 | 214872 | 258109 | 29027 | 43237 | 15.62 | 20.12 |
| 9 | Rahata | - | 288279 | 320485 | - | 32206 | - | 11.17 |
| 10 | Rahuri | 252570 | 294924 | 322823 | 42354 | 27899 | 16.77 | 9.46 |
| 11 | Sangamner | 354808 | 441439 | 487939 | 86631 | 46500 | 24.42 | 10.53 |
| 12 | Shevgaon | 170507 | 203676 | 245714 | 33169 | 42038 | 19.45 | 20.64 |
| 13 | Shrigonda | 235706 | 277356 | 315975 | 41650 | 38619 | 17.67 | 13.92 |
| 14 | Shrirampur | 340327 | 256458 | 287500 | -83869 | 31042 | -24.64 | 12.10 |
| | District Total | 3372935 | 4040642 | 4543159 | 667707 | 502517 | 19.80 | 12.44 |

Source: Census hand book 1991 & census CD (2001,2011) of Ahmednagar District



Table 1 clearly indicates that, in the decade 1991-2001, the growth rate of population was 19.80 and during 2001-2011, growth rate of population decreased and reached to 12.44 percent. It means the growth rate of population decreased with 7 percent. Though the overall growth rate of population is insignificant, there is considerable variation in the population growth rate at tahsil level.

Table 1 reveals that, during 1991 - 2001, below 16% growth rate of population is observed in Pathardi (15.62%), Parner (15.18%), Jamkhed (12.52%) and Karjat tahsil (11.58%) whereas 16% to 20% change in population has been recorded in Rahuri (16.77%), Shrigonda (17.67%), Shevgaon (19.45%) and Nevasa (19.64%) tahsil. Above 20% change in growth rate of population has been recorded in Akole (20.02%), Sangamner (24.42%) and Ahmednagar tahsil (25.64%).

Shrirampur tahsil (-24.64) and Kopergaon (-17.85%) tahsil has shown negative change because of territory changes. Many villages due to administrative reason have been transferred to these tahsil.

During 2001-2011, below 10% growth in population has been observed in Kopergaon (9.12%), Rahuri (9.46%), Akole (9.49%) and Nevasa (9.53%) tahsils whereas 10% to 15% growth has been recorded in Sangamner (10.53%), Rahta (11.17%), Parner (11.20%), Shirampur (12.10%), Ahmednagar (12.75%), Shrigonda (13.92%) and Karjat tahsil (14.64%). Above 15% population growth has been noticed in Jamkhed (18.00%), Pathardi (20.12%) and Shevgaon (20.64%) tahsil.



Conclusions:

Overall analysis reveals that, tahsils like Shrigonda, Parner, Rahuri, Nevasa, Akole, Ahmednagar and Sangamner has shown positive growth whereas Shrirampur, Kopargaon, Jamkhed, Pathardi, Karjat and Shevgaon has shown negative growth rate of population during the period under study.

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