



## **Growth Rate of Rural Population: A Talukawise Geographical Study of Ahmednagar District**

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### **INTRODUCTION:-**

Geographers and historians have long been interested in human settlements. Particularly geographers focus their attention on the analysis of spatial structure. Geographers are also interested in the study of dynamic character of rural settlements. In the present study attempt has been made to find out the growth in number of rural settlements during the last six decades. Further attempt has been made to study the growth of rural population, growth of individual settlements and their classwise growth rate.

The dynamics of rural growth is related to various geographical factors and changing economic situation. Sometimes negative trend of growth in the population as well as in the number of rural settlements is observed. It happens so when the settlements are shifted from their locations. In the previous chapter, we have discussed the factors of the distribution of rural settlements several of those factors are also responsible for the varying growth of rural settlements. The region, where resources are limited, land under cultivation is poor and physiography is rugged, in such areas the growth rate of rural settlements is poor, at the same time very few new settlements develop in these areas. On the other hand, in the plain area, where land is fertile, irrigation is developed and agriculture is found in prosperous stage, the rural settlements grow at a higher rate and several new settlements also emerge in the landscape.

### **Objectives :-**

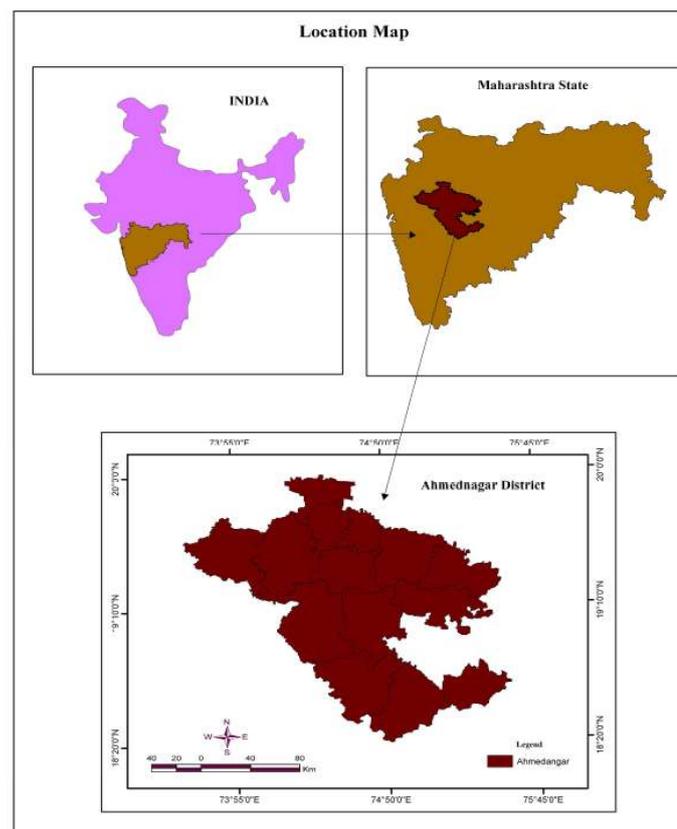
The main objective of the present paper is to examine and analyze the changes of Talukawise population growth rate in Ahmednagar District.

### **Database & Methodology :-**

The present paper is based on secondary data. Secondary data has been obtained from social-economic abstract, District census handbook district Gazetteers, district statistical department and census of India.

**Study Area :-**

Ahmednagar District is situated partly in the upper Godavari basin and partly in the Bhima basin, occupying a somewhat central position in Maharashtra state. It is located between 18°2' and 19°9' North latitudes and 73°9' and 75° 5' east longitudes. The district is irregular in shape and resembles a slanting cross with a length of 200 kms and breadth of 210 kms. It is surrounded by Nashik district to the north, Aurangabad district to the north-east, Beed district to the east Osmanabad and Solapur district to the south, Pune district to the west and Thane district to north-west. It has total area of 17413 sq.kms. This is the largest district of Maharashtra. It has 14 talukas, 1581 habited villages and 2 Unhabited villages 23 Towns and total population of 45, 43,159 (2011) in this district. The names of talukas are as follows Akola, Jamkhed, Karjat, Kopargaon, Nagar, Newasa, Parner, Pathardi, Rahata, Rahuri, Sangamner, Shevgaon, Shrigonda and Shrirampur.



**Map No. 1**

**Table No. 1**

**TALUKAWISE GROWTH RATE OF RURAL POPULATION :-**

Sr. No.	Taluka	Rural Population Growth in Percent				
		1961-1971	1971-1981	1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011
1	Akola	25.39	19.42	25.95	20.02	5.73
2	Jamkhed	18.37	10.06	25.15	-10.66	16.70
3	Karjat	24.49	18.61	25.72	11.58	8.97
4	Kopargaon	31.00	7.40	1.86	-17.14	14.95
5	Nagar	22.63	19.04	41.16	-11.53	10.89
6	Newasa	27.77	40.46	29.27	19.64	9.53
7	Parner	18.20	14.60	20.60	15.18	11.20
8	Pathardi	24.96	6.67	12.50	15.47	20.23
9	Rahata	0	0	0	0	7.85
10	Rahuri	35.35	10.87	12.56	15.72	9.95
11	Sangamner	33.16	26.35	27.22	17.78	11.15
12	Shevgaon	23.64	7.32	23.31	19.45	20.64
13	Shrigonda	23.89	23.77	17.99	17.27	13.47
14	Shrirampur	33.91	13.52	10.62	-35.82	18.20
	<b>Total</b>	27.00	16.82	20.47	5.44	12.16

**Source:- Computed by researcher**

A comparative analysis of talukawise growth of rural population indicates that, during 1961 – 1971 decade higher growth rate of rural population has been observed for Rahuri, Shrirampur, Sangamner and Kopargaon talukas ( 35.35, 33.91, 33.16 and 31.00 percent ) respectively, where as Akola, Karjat, Nagar, Newasa, Pathardi, Shevgaon and Shrigonda have a growth rate between 22 to 28 percent. Only two talukas namely Jamkhed and Parner indicate low growth rate which is below 19 percent. The average growth rate for the region is 27 percent.

In the next decade ( 1971 – 1981 ) higher growth rate of rural population has been observed for Newasa taluka ( 40.46 percent ). Sangamner and Shrigonda talukas have growth rate between 22 to 27 percent and Akola, Jamkhed, Karjat, Nagar, Parner, Rahuri and Shrirampur have a growth rate between 10 to 20 percent. Kopargaon, Parthardi and Shevgaon talukas indicate very low growth rate ( 7.40, 6.67 and 7.32 respectively ) as compared to the growth rate of previous decade. In the decade 1981 – 1991, the growth rate of rural population has observed in all talukas of the study region.

More growth rate of population is found in Nagar taluka because of migration of people from drough- prawn area of Beed District. Akola, Jamkhed, Karjat, Newasa, Parner, Sangamner and Shevgaon talukas have growth rate between 20 to 30 percent and Patherdi, Rahuri, Shrigonda and Shrirampur talukas have growth rate between 10 to 20 percent. The



average growth rate of rural population for a decade 1981 – 1991 is 20.47 percent which is comparatively higher than previous decade (1971 – 1981).

In the decade 1991 – 2001 the growth rate of Pathardi and Rahuri talukas indicate increase growth rate as compared to the growth rate of previous decade and other all talukas the growth rate is declined. In this decade, the negative growth rate is observed in four talukas. In Kopergaon (-17.14 percent) and Shrirampur (-35.82 percent) talukas, the growth rate is negative which was due to emergence of Rahata taluka (26 June 1999) from Kopergaon and Shrirampur. In Jamkhed taluka negative growth rate (-10.56 percent) is observed because Jamkhed head quarter shows urban status. Aslo Nagar taluka holds a negative rural population growth rate (-11.53 percent) because villages around Ahmednagar city are merged in Ahmednagar corporation.

In the last decade 2001 – 2011 Jamkhed, Kopergaon, Nagar, Parner, Pathari, Sangamner, Shevgaon, Shrigonda and Shrirampur talukas have growth rate between 10 to 21 percent and Akola, Karjat, Rahata, Newasa and Rahuri have a growth rate between 5 to 10 percent. The average growth rate of rural population for a decade 2001 – 2011 is 12.16 percent. Which is comparatively higher than previous decade ( 1991 – 2001 ) The table No. 1 give clear idea about the growth pattern of rural population.

#### **CONCLUSION :-**

Concluding the salient features of the growth character of rural population and settlements, it is observed that the talukas which are agriculturally prosperous and economically better developed, indicate more growth rate of rural population.

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