LEVELS OF URBANIZATION IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT:
A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION

When urbanisation is treated as a demographic phenomenon, it is often misleadingly described as an equivalent to urban population growth. Urbanization refers to the increasing number of people that live in urban areas. Urbanization is a primarily the outcome of (Net) migration from rural to urban areas. The expansion of urban boundaries and the formation of new urban centres also contribute to urbanization, but it should be kept in mind that migration is also an important driver behind the formation of new urban centres and the spatial expansion of old ones. Urbanization involves changes in demographic, economic and environmental flows between rural and urban areas, though not always in predictable ways. Urbanization not only spurred by changing urban conditions, but also by changing rural conditions.
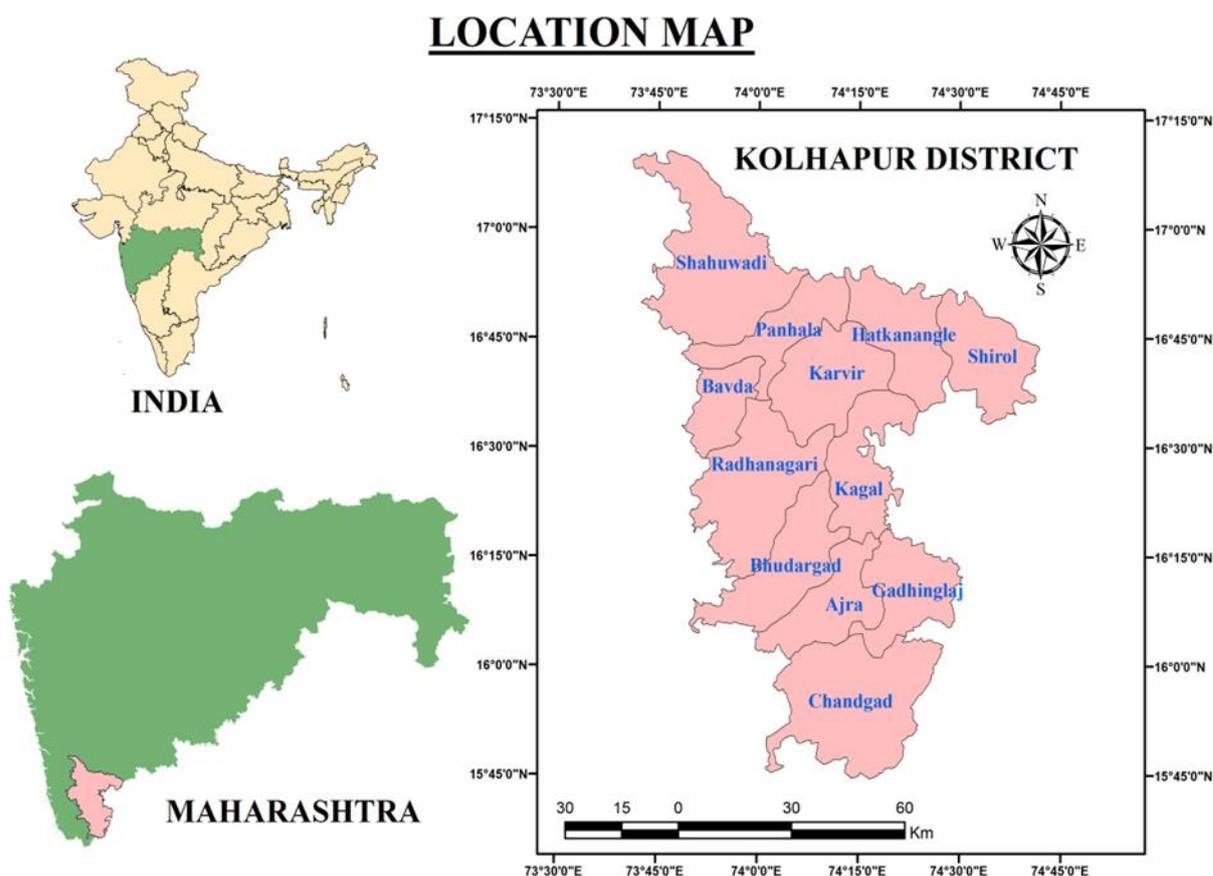
Urbanization is an indicator of the level of development. There cannot be a single definition of the concept of urbanization. Urbanization is a population shift from rural area to urban area and society adopt to change. Urbanization is a critical process through which nation passes they evolve from agrarian to industrial societies (Trewartha, 1969). The percentage of urban population is considered as an index of level of urbanization. For the present analysis, the percentage distribution method has been used to measures the degree of urbanization.

STUDY AREA

In India, Maharashtra occupies a very important position which ranks third in area and second in population. Within the state of Maharashtra the Kolhapur district has also a very significant position as regards to area and population. Kolhapur district lies in Southern Maharashtra, particularly at the western limit of Deccan table land. The region under study extends between $15^0\ 17'$ north to $17^017'$ north latitudes and $73^040'$ east to $74^042'$ east longitudes and comprises 12 tahsils. Kolhapur district is enclosed by Sangli district in the north, in the south of Karnataka state is Belgaum district and in the west it is bounded by Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. The district is sharing 2.62 % area of the Maharashtra state. According to 2011 census, the total population of the district is 3876001. Kolhapur, the 'Historical and Religious City', is currently emerging as the largest educational centre of certain cool stations, goods and services. Kolhapur district has 18 towns and 1206 villages. The distribution of the total population in the urban and rural area is 1229896 and 1050353 respectively.

For Administrative convenience the district has been divided into 12 tahsils and development blocks. The study has been made at the tahsil level. The data have been compiled from various publications of the State Government and from the Census of India publications.

Location Map of Study Area

OBJECTIVE

The major objective of this paper is as follow.

1. To examine the spatial variation among the levels of urbanization in Kolhapur district.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present paper is based on the secondary data mainly collected from census of India, 2001 and 2011. Decadal growth of urban population in Kolhapur district is calculated by following formula.

$$r = \frac{P2 - P1}{P1} \times 100$$

Where,

r = Rate of changes in population

P_2 = Population of later decade

P_1 = Population of initial decade

The growth of urban population of Kolhapur district is shown by simple bar graph. The percentage of urban population to total population of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra and India are shown by multiple bar graphs. Tahsilwise Urban population has been collected from census of India 2011, Primary census abstract of Maharashtra. The collected data is processed to analyze the spatial patterns of urbanization of Kolhapur district. Statistical method is adopted for determining of class category viz. High, Moderate, Low, Very Low and no urbanization. The Choropleth technique has been used for representing levels of urbanization.

Table 1
Growth of Urban Population in Kolhapur District

Year	Urban Population in lacks	Absolute Variation in lacks	Decadal Growth Rate
1901	1.15	-	-
1911	0.86	-0.29	-25.49
1921	1.04	0.19	21.97
1931	1.34	0.30	28.46
1941	1.75	0.41	30.67
1951	2.77	1.02	58.23
1961	3.08	0.30	10.92
1971	4.40	1.32	43.04
1981	6.22	1.82	41.28
1991	7.87	1.65	26.52
2001	10.50	2.63	33.41
2011	12.30	1.80	17.14

Source: *Census of India, 2011, Primary Census Abstract of Maharashtra.*
Census of India, 2001, Series 28, Maharashtra.
Computed by researcher.

Table 1 shows that the temporal growth of urban population in Kolhapur District. By the table no.1 reveals that Kolhapur district has a short fail in 1901 to 1941. Since 1951 there is steadily upward growth of urbanization. It is observed that sharp rise urban population after 1951 due to development of industrialization and economy in the study region. Industrialization has undoubtly accelerated, the process of urbanization by way of rapid growth of urban population.

Table 2
Percentage of Urban population to total population
Kolhapur, Maharashtra and India 1901-2011.

Census year	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
India	10.84	10.3	11.2	12.99	13.85	17.219	17.8	19.7	23.31	25.72	27.81	31.16
Maharashtra	16.59	15.12	18.49	18.6	21.11	28.75	28.22	31.16	35.03	38.69	42.39	45.23
Kolhapur	13.17	10.8	13.14	14.77	16.87	21.89	19.82	21.99	25.32	26.33	29.81	31.73

Source: *Primary Census Abstract of Maharashtra-2011.*
Computed by researcher.

According to 1901 Census about 13.17 percent population of Kolhapur district lived in urban area (Table No.2) and only 16.59 percent population of Maharashtra and 10.84 percent population of India had urban residence. The percentage of urban population of Kolhapur district since 1901 has been increasing except during the year 1911 and 1961 respectively. According to 2011 census India is urbanized as 31.16 percent population lives in big towns and cities, while Maharashtra is highly urbanized as 45.23 percent population lives in cities. According to 2011 census Kolhapur district is urbanised as 31.73 percent is higher than nation. Kolhapur district has the highest agricultural economy in the Maharashtra after independence the development of industrialization are major cause of rapid growth of urbanization of Kolhapur.

Table No. 3
Spatial Pattern of Levels of Urbanization in Kolhapur District

Sr. No.	Name of Tahsil	Total Population	Urban Population	Urban Population %
1	Shahuwadi	185661	5339	2.88
2	Panhala	259417	7814	3.01
3	Hatkanangle	807751	400523	49.58
4	Shirol	391015	70882	18.13
5	Karvir	1037713	655709	63.19
6	Gaganbavda	35772	0	0.00
7	Radhanagari	199713	0	0.00
8	Kagal	275372	45300	16.45
9	Bhudargad	150368	0	0.00
10	Ajra	120265	17257	14.35
11	Gadhinglaj	225734	27185	12.04
12	Chandgad	187220	0	0.00

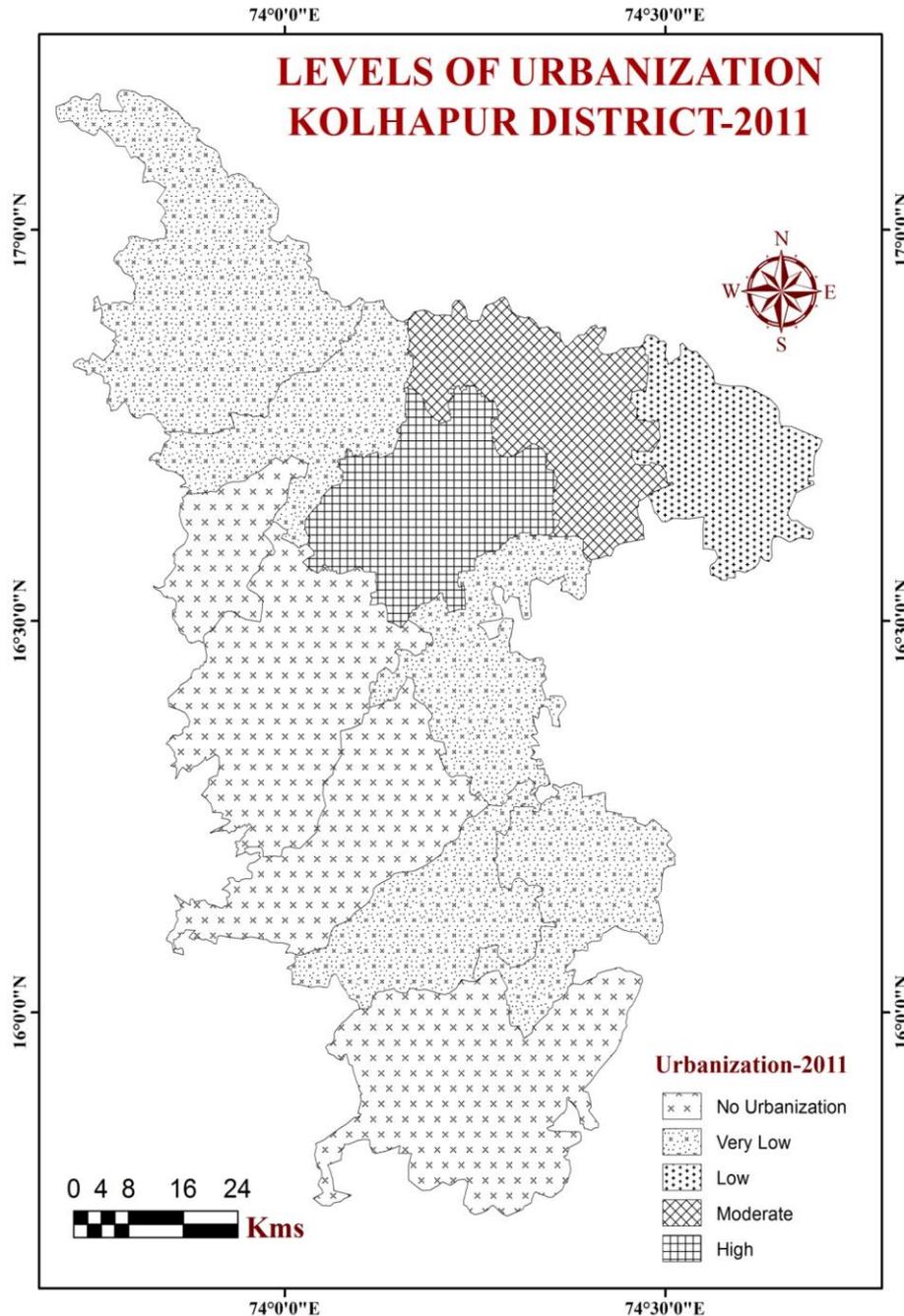Source: Census of India, 2011. Compiled by researcher.

Spatial Pattern of Levels of urbanization in Kolhapur District

Table No.3 Shows the wide range of variation of level of urbanization in Kolhapur district. 63.19 percent urban population found in Karveer tahsil and 2.88 percent urban population of Shahuwadi tahsil. The average urban population in Kolhapur district is 31.73 percent to total population and the standard deviation value is 20.74. On the basis of standard deviation, the levels of urbanization have been arranged four categories. (Table-4)

Table 4
Levels of Urbanization in Kolhapur District (2011)

Index Value	Above 58.52	37.78 to 58.52	17.04 to 37.78	Below 17.04	No Urbanization
Category	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low	
Name of Tahsil	Karveer	Hatkanangle	Shirol	Kagal, Ajara, Gadhinglaj, Panhala, Shahuwadi	Gaganbavda, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Chandgad
No. of Tahsil	01	01	01	05	04

Source: Computed by Author

1. High level of Urbanization:

The tahsil which has urban population above 58.52 percent is included in this category during 2011. High level of urbanization is recorded in only Karveer tahsil (63.19 percent) of Kolhapur district. The growth of industrial area, Administrative, educational units, largest no. of automobile industries, commercial functions and transportation facilities are more responsible and these tahsil provided more employment opportunity, however they are highly urbanized.

2. Moderate level of Urbanization:

The tahsil which has urban population 37.78 to 58.52 percent is included in this category. Moderate level of urbanization is observed in only Hatkanangle tahsil. In

this tahsil educational facility, agricultural development and Industrial development are more responsible for moderate level of urbanization.

3. Low level of Urbanization:

The tahsil which has urban population 17.04 to 37.78 percent is included in this category. Low level of urbanization is observed only one tahsil namely Shirol. In this tahsil low urbanization is observed due to less development of industrialization and also less economic development.

4. Very low level of urbanization:

Very low level of urbanization (below 17.04 percent) is observed in Kagal (16.45), Ajra (14.35), Gadhinglaj (12.04), Panhala (3.01) and Shahuwadi (2.88 percent) tahsils respectively. Above five tahsils has very low level of urbanization because, these tahsils are entirely hilly, lack of income source, less economic development and also less industrial development.

5. No urbanization:

In this category, there are four tahsils included of Kolhapur district i.e. Gaganbavda, Radhanagari, Bhudargad and Chandgad. These tahsils having high rainfall, most of the people having migrated towards Mumbai, Pune, and Belgaum for employment purpose and most of the areas cover with hilly ranges and undulating topography.

CONCLUSION

The present research paper concludes that there are major variations in urbanization in Kolhapur district. In Kolhapur district, the highest urbanization has been found in Karveer tahsil (63.19 percent). Among the 12 tahsils of Kolhapur district, one moderate level of urbanization, one low level of urbanization has observed. There are five tahsils has been found very low level of urbanization i.e. Kagal (16.45), Ajara (14.35), Gadhinglaj (12.04), Panhala (3.01) and Shahuwadi (2.88) respectively, because there are hilly areas, fallow land, low level of irrigation and less industrialization.

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