



LEVELS OF URBANIZATION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA: A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

S. Y. Gavali

NET-Junior Research Fellow,
Department of Geography,
Chh. Shivaji College, Satara.

Dr. S. B. Zodage

Associate Professor and Head
Department of Geography,
Chh. Shivaji College, Satara.

ABSTRACT

Urbanization is the demographic process of becoming urban. In other words, it is a demographic process whereby an increasing proportion of the population of a region lives in urban areas. In developed nations urbanization is occurring at much faster rate than less developed country. In India urbanization flourished as early as 300 b.c. The urban centers of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa may be cited as the examples. The process of urbanization recorded a steady growth after 1921. It got jump after independence. The present study attempt has been made to analyze the levels of urbanization in Solapur district in Maharashtra. The district consist eleven tahsils covering 14895.00 sq. km. area. The present study is based on the secondary data. Tahsil is taken as a unit of study, for understanding and mapping purpose. The Solapur district level of urbanization has been studied with the help of various indicators such as urban growth rate, urbanization trend, etc. map and diagrams used for systematic presentation of results. Due to the process of urbanization the quality of life in most of the urban places is declining. Delhi at present is considered as the second most polluted city after Mexico City in the world. The present study may help to the urban planners, administrators and urban developers to knowledge of the present level tend and pattern of urbanization for future planning.

KEY WORDS: Urbanization, Population, Area, Growth Rate, Demography, etc.

INTRODUCTION

In 1800 A. D., only 2.4 per cent of the world population was urban which increased to 9.2 per cent in 1900. In 1950 about 21 per cent of world population was living in towns and cities. In 2001, about 48 per cent of the world population was residing in urban settlements. According to the projections made for 2025, about 57 per cent of the world population would be urban.

In India process of urbanization recorded a steady growth after 1921. From 1951 to 2011 India's urban population has more than tripled from 62.4 million to 377.1 million in 2011. Number of urban towns has grown from 2843 in 1951 to 7935 in 2011. According to the 2011 census in India, there are three mega cities having a population of over 8 million each. These are Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi.



The present urbanization of India faces difficult challenge of poverty, poor urban infrastructure and environmental degradation. The quality of life in most of the urban places is declining. Delhi at present is considered as the second most polluted city after Mexico City in the world. Adequate steps are not taken to prevent pollution and to improve the quality of life the life of urban dwellers of India may become more difficult. The planners, administrators and urban developers should have knowledge of the present level trend and pattern of urbanization for future planning. There for the present study attempt has been made to analysis the level of urbanization in Solapur district.

STUDY AREA

Solapur district is one of the most important districts of Maharashtra State. Its location lies between $17^{\circ} 10'$ and $18^{\circ} 32'$ north latitudes and $74^{\circ} 42'$ and $76^{\circ} 15'$ east longitudes. It is located entirely in the Bhima basins. Most of the area of district belongs to the Deccan plateau region. The east-west length of the district is about 200 km. and north-south width is about 150 km. It is bounded on the southwest by Sangali district, on the west by Satara, on the northwest by Pune, on the northeast by Ahamadnagar and on the north and northeast by Osmanabad district. Bijapur district lies to its south as well as Gulburga district of Karnataka state to its east. The district comprises of 11 tahsils namely Karmala, Madha, Barshi, Solapur North, Mohol, Pandharpur, Malshiras, Sangola, Mangalvedha, Solapur South and Akkalkot. According to 2011 census of India, the total population of Solapur district is 4317756 Out of which 2918665 population lives in rural areas and 1399091 population lives in urban areas.

OBJEECTIVE

The main objective of the present study is

1. To know the levels of urbanization in study area.
2. To find out the trend and patterns of urbanization in Solapur district.

DATARBASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on mainly secondary data. It mainly collected from district census handbook, socio economic abstract, etc. The percentage of urban population to total population has been calculated. The period from 1961 to 2011 is selected for the observation of trend and degree of urbanization change. The result has been shown with the help of different graphs, tables.

URBANIZATION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT:

According to the 2011 census, the total population of Solapur district is 4317756. The growth of population from 1961 to 2011 steady increase, in 1961 the total population of Solapur district is 1860102, it become 3849543 in 2001. According to the census of 2011 the

total urban population of Solapur district is 1399091. The percentage of urban population to the total population is 32.40 in 2011 census year.

The urbanization in the Solapur district increased from 519887 in 1961 to 1399091 in 2011 census year. The percentage of urban population in Solapur district increased from 1961 to 2011. The percentage of urban population of Solapur district since 1961 is noted in Table 1.

Table 1
Trends of Urbanization in Solapur District (1961 to 2011)

Year	Total population	Urban population	Urban population in %	Urban population decadal growth rate in %
1961	1860102	519887	27.95	---
1971	2254369	616552	27.35	18.60
1981	2588139	767466	29.65	24.48
1991	3231057	929483	28.77	21.11
2001	3849543	1225284	31.83	31.82
2011	4317756	1399091	32.40	14.19

Source: Census of India, 1961 to 2011

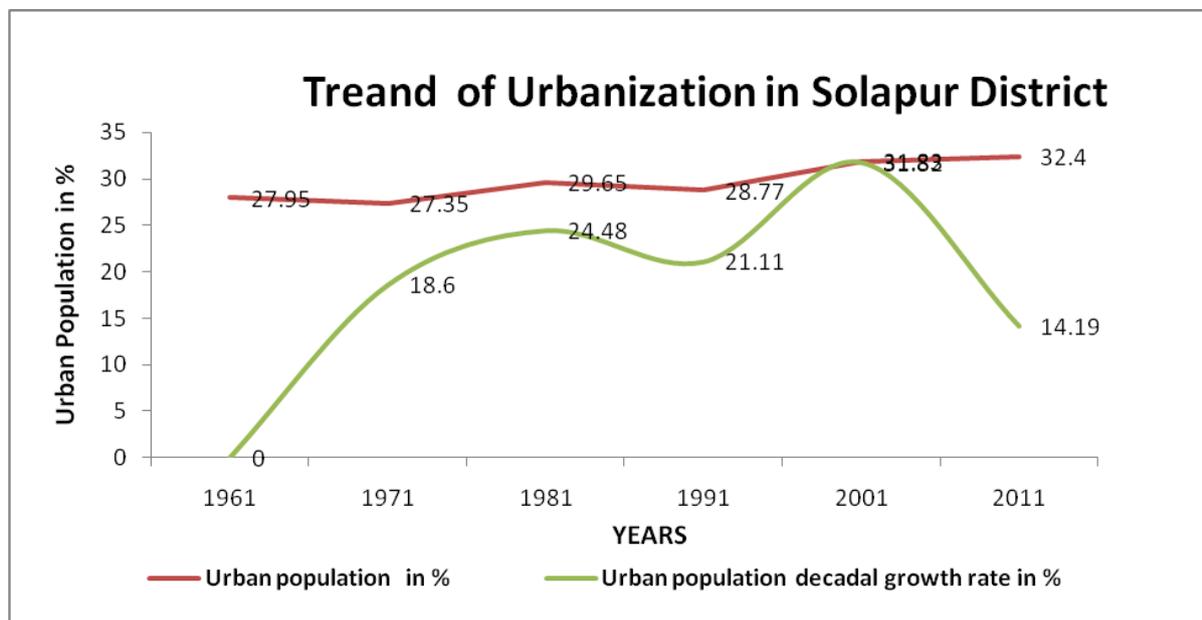


Figure.1 Trend of Urbanization in Solapur District (1961-2011)

In 2001, the urban population of Solapur district was 31.83 per cent; it was reflected in the decennial growth rate of urban population, which was 31.82 per cent during 1991-2001 because of agricultural depression and population migration from rural area to urban area due to various reasons like job opportunities, education facility. After the independent of India, it

is the highest decadal growth rate in urban population recorded in Solapur district. However, in the next decade the decennial growth rate in Solapur district demonstrated a sharp declining trend after reaching the peak in 1991-2001. In the 2001-2011, it was 14.19 per cent and the level of urbanization was 32.40 per cent. The lowest decadal growth rate in urban population in Solapur district recorded in 1961-1971 decade, which was 18.60 per cent (figure 1). There are not only variations in the level of urbanization in Solapur district but also fluctuation in the decadal growth rate of urban population.

There were two tahsils with a level of urbanization higher than the district average, these includes Solapur North and Barshi. There were two tahsils with a zero percent of urbanization, these includes Mohol and Solapur South. Due to administration point, tourism and availability of basic services, Solapur North tahsil is the highest in urbanization in Solapur district, followed by Barshi and Pandharpur. Mohol and Solapur South tahsil was very poor in urbanization in all two decades. In the tahsil Malshiras urbanization not started in 2001 census year, but it started in the 2011 census period. According to above census data the urbanization rate of Karmala, Madha, Solapur North, Pandharpur, Mangalvedha and Akkalkot were gradually decreased from 2001 to 2011. On the other hand the urbanization process gradually increased in other tahsil (Table-2).

Table 2
Tahsil Wise Level of Urbanization in Solapur District (20041to 2011)

Sr. No.	District/tahsil	% of urban population to tahsil population	
		2001	2011
1	Karmala	9.40	9.12
2	Madha	7.78	6.93
3	Barshi	30.74	31.85
4	Solapur North	90.81	89.99
5	Mohol	0	0
6	Pandharpur	22.69	22.36
7	Malshiras	0	13.26
8	Sangola	10.33	10.63
9	Mangalvedha	12.67	10.60
10	Solapur South	0	0
11	Akkalkot	21.42	20.24
12	District Total	31.83	32.40

Source: Census of India, 2001 to 2011.

PATTERNS OF URBANISATION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT, 2001 TO 2011.

On the basis of level of urbanization, the tahsils can be divided into four categories with its respective percentage of urban population to the total population. Spatial pattern of urbanization for Solapur district has been attempted since 2001 and 2011.

- 1) Areas of high degree of urbanization (more than 70 %)
- 2) Areas of medium degree of urbanization (30-70%)



- 3) Areas of low degree of urbanization (1-30%)
- 4) Areas of zero degree of urbanization (less than 1%)

1) AREAS OF HIGH DEGREE OF URBANIZATION:

High degree of urbanization was found only in Solapur North tahsil. Due to high growth of industrialization, good geographical conditions for living and high migration from rural to urban area the high degree of urbanization found in this tahsil.

2) AREAS OF MEDIUM DEGREE OF URBANIZATION:

Medium degree of urbanization was found only in Barshi tahsil. Barshi tahsil has above 31 per cent urbanized tahsil in the study region, due to growth of industrialization, rural to urban areas migration. Due to growth of medium scale industrial units and migration from rural to urban Barshi tahsil remained in the category of areas of medium degree of urbanization.

3) AREAS OF LOW DEGREE OF URBANIZATION:

In this category seven tahsils are situated these are Pandharpur, Akkalkot, Mangalvedha, Sangola, Karmala and Medha. Areas of low degree of urbanization found due to low degree of industrialization and low rate of migration from rural to urban. According to the 2001 census the urbanization process are not started in Malshiras tahsil, but after that in the 2011 census year urbanization start in this tahsil. According to 2011 census in this categories Pandharpur tahsil is highest degree of urbanized, on the other hand Medha is the lowest urbanized tahsil.

4) AREAS OF ZERO DEGREE OF URBANISATION:

In this categories tow tahsil are situated these are Mohol tahsil and Solapur South tahsil. In this tahsil urbanization process are not found, due to unfavorable geographical conditions, low availability of water, very low rate of industrialization and very low degree of migration from rural to urban area.

CONCLUSION

The urbanization in the Solapur district increased from 519887 in 1961 to 1399091 in 2011. The percentage of urban population in Solapur district increased from 1961 to 2011. During last two decades the urban population of Solapur district increased at a faster rate. In year 1991 it was 929483, it become 1225284 in the year 2001, and in the census year 2011 it became 1399091. The great majority of people migrated towards urban areas for trade, job and for educational purpose from rural to urban areas.

Urbanization in Solapur district show irregular pattern. As compare to other tahsils in Solapur district Solapur North tahsil is more urbanized, on the other hand Madha tahsil



record low level of urbanization. In the study area Mohol and Solapur South tahsil are the tahsils where urbanization process is not started yet. As compared to 1991-2001 decade the decadal growth rate of urban population in Solapur district going to decrease in 2001-2011 decade.

REFERENCES

1. Nitin N.M and Ravindra G.j.,2014, Study Of Urbanization In Pune District Using Geoinformatics Approach, International Journal Of Advance and Applied Research, pp 45-54.
2. Socio-economic abstract of Solapur district .
3. Census of India, 2001.
4. Census of India, 2011.
5. Majid H., 2011, Human Geography, Rawat Publications, Kolkata.
6. Bhosale K.D., 2010, A Study of Urbanization in Nagpur District, Institute of Town Planners, India Journal,7 (3), pp 88-95.
7. Majid H., 1979, Human and Economic Geography, New Delhi.
8. Chandana R. C., 2001, Geography of Population, Kalyani Publication, New Delhi.