

Population is an important factor playing a dominant role in country's economic development. Hence, the study of population gets more importance. Population growth, distribution and density are the important aspects of population study. The growth of population is affected by three factors viz. birth rate, death rate and migration. In Khanapur taluka it is seen that the growth of population is steady from 1961, but the percent varies from decade to decade. The study shows that the growth of population in study area has decreased from 1961 to 1971, but there is an increasing trend from 1971 to 1981. This general picture of population growth does not reflect the actual growth of population of villages. Hence, the villagewise growth rate is calculated. It is observed that the growth rate is higher in the western part of taluka as compared to the eastern. The highest growth rate is observed at Nagewadi (39%). The villages with relatively high growth rate are 6 in number, 27 in moderate and 64 in low growth rate category.

The distribution of population study reveals that the Khanapur taluka have sparse population and it varied from village to village. As the taluka suffers from a deficit of rainfall and ground water, its large part had to live with a perpetual fear of drought. The only one urban centre, that is Vita has some concentration of population and accounts for nearly 10 percent of total. Banks, government offices, markets and small scale industries too are

located in this urban centre. Therefore, people are attracted towards this centre. There are two centres having population more than 10,000. Seven centres having population in between 5000 to 10,000 and six centres having population in between 3000 to 5000.

The study of general distribution of population could not give visual idea of the distribution. Therefore, the density of population is calculated. Study of density reveals that the density of population is affected by relief, soil and climate. The average density of population in taluka is 164 persons per sq.km. This average density of taluka could not give real picture of density patterns, therefore, villagewise density is calculated. This study reveals that the density of population varies from village to village. The highest density is observed at Sultangad (636.43 persons per sq.km). This village and some other villages of taluka have high density only because of low proportion of area as compared to population. But some centres like Vita, Khanapur, Kadegaon do have density owing to their location and level of development. In 1981 eight centres have high density, which covers 8.3 percent area of taluka and moderate density is observed at 39 villages, covers 45.36 percent population and 40.83 percent area. Low density is observed at 50 villages. They cover 36.1 percent population and 50.84 percent area.

The study of socio-economic facilities reveal that the socio-economic facilities have assumed special importance

with growing emphasis on improving the quality of life at all levels. In this study six socio-economic facilities are taken into consideration. They are - Education, Medical, Post and Telegraph, Transport, Electricity and Bank. The distribution of each facility is different. The primary and middle school education facility is provided to all villages in the taluka. The highschools are observed at 32 villages. The intensity of facility is shown on map with the help of concentration index. High concentration is observed at 14 centres, moderate at 56 and 27 have recorded low concentration.

The distribution of medical facility is not sufficient. In 1981 there are only 25 centres served by this facility. High concentration is recorded at 6 centres, moderate at 9 and low at 10 centres. There are no remarkable changes in medical facility from 1961 to 1981.

Post and Telegraph facility is well distributed in the taluka. In 1981, 87 centres were served by this facility. It increased from 36 in 1961 to 65 in 1971 and 87 in 1981. The high concentration of facility is recorded at 27 centres, moderate at 42 and low at 18 centres. Transport facility is fairly developed in the taluka. All villages are connected by roads since 1971. In 1961 only 56 centres were connected by road.

The electricity facility is well distributed in Khanapur taluka. There are 85 centres which are served by this facility.

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In 1961 there were 9 centres served by electricity facility. This number increased to 36 in 1971. The intensity of facility is also shown by concentration index. The high concentration is recorded at 27 villages, moderate at 36 and low at 22 villages.

Bank facility is provided to 16 centres in the year 1981. In 1961 only two centres were served by this facility and five centres had it in 1971. High concentration is recorded at 3 centres, moderate at 6 and low at 7 centres.

The relationship between population and socio-economic facilities is also studied. By threshold population the sufficiency and deficiency of facility is shown. The study indicates that three facilities needed sufficient population for their support. There are many deficit villages which have population above the threshold but do not have the facility. This shows that mere threshold population is not sufficient to have the facility developed.

In Khanapur taluka all villages are sufficiently served by primary and middle school facility. The highschools do not occur at many places though there are 39 centres sufficient and two deficient centres for this facility. The medical facility is not sufficient, 25 centres have sufficient and rest are deficient.

Post and Telegraph facility is separately studied.

Because the importance of these two facilities is different and so threshold population is also different. There are 5 centres which have population above threshold but are not served by facility. There are 87 centres with sufficient by postal facility. Telegraph facility is observed at eight centres only. There are four centres which have population above threshold but do not have this facility. Transport facility is sufficient at 65 centres. There are four centres which have population above threshold but do not have the facility. The correlation between population and transport facility is positive ('r' value + 0.71).

The electricity is provided to 85 centres. There are two centres which have population above threshold, but are not served by electricity. The correlation between population and this facility is positive with + 0.57 'r' value.

There are 16 centres served by bank facility and two centres which do have population above threshold but are not served by the facility. The correlation between population and various facilities is positive but it is not significant except primary education, post and transport.

The present research work is designed to test the validity of three hypothesis in context with population distribution and socio-economic facilities. The first two hypothesis intend to test the distribution of population and socio-economic facilities. It is observed that the two

aspects are not evenly distributed all over the area under study. But the third significant hypothesis of the work is to test association between population and socio-economic facilities. It is seen that the selected facilities do not increase with the growth of population in the taluka. Moreover high capital and technology based facilities increase slowly and sparingly with felt needs. It would be worth to study further, the temporal sequencing of the facilities and capital and technological affordability.

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