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I N T R O D U C T I O N

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Weekly market centres are very important economic institutions in the agrarian economy where agricultural produce and manufactured goods are exchanged through the periodic market system. A market centre is a main focus of various commercial activities of most peasant societies. These market centres are the only outlets easily available to them to dispose their surplus produce and purchase various items of daily needs. The market centres are the centres of collection and distribution of agricultural surpluses. The periodic market system of a region play a significant role in the development of the region. Market centres are not only economically important but they are socially and culturally important too. They are looked upon as service centres and the centres of diffusion. The study of market system operating in a region provides a knowledge of the strength and weakness of the region.

Keeping in view the significance of the market system the study of weekly market centres and their spatial organization in Karmala tahsil is undertaken. The present study deals with " Geographic Perspective On Weekly Market Centres in Karmala Tahsil." In this work, particularly attempts are made in the

direction of the weekly market centres and their spatial pattern of distribution. The market centres are evaluated in terms of their functional centrality and are organized in hierarchic orders. This study also attempts to highlight on the service areas of the market centres and their delimitation and study of weekly market centres and rural development.

The present work has been organized into six chapters. Chapter First, deals with an introduction to the study region and explores geographical setting, physical aspects, drainage and general landuse. The occupational structure and economy of the study region is briefly outlined. Further, the settlements, transport and communication along with population aspects have been considered. This chapter also incorporates the objectives of the present work and data base and methodology.

Chapter second, attempts to highlight on the spatial distribution and growth characteristics of weekly market centres in the study region. The salient features of this chapter are the study of nature of distribution and influencing factors. Further, to understand the spatial distributional pattern of market centres the Nearest - Neighbour Analysis Technique has been employed and the results have been obtained. The levels of development at block level are calculated and correlated with market centres. The degree of concentration of the market centres within the study region has also worked out - in the first half of the chapter. The second half of the chapter comprises growth

characteristics of market centres at the levels of region, block and individual centre. The study of growth rates of the market centres and their spatial variation is a unique feature of this chapter.

Chapter Third is devoted to the study of centrality and hierarchy of weekly market centres. This chapter is divided into two parts. Part first, deals with the centrality of market centres. The centrality of the market centres has been calculated with traditional methods at the same time an attempt has been made to evolve a new method to measure the centrality. The comparative analysis of centrality scores and the suitability and superiority of the new method are the prominent features of this part of this chapter. The second part of this chapter encompasses the study of the hierarchic organization of market centres. The hierarchy of market centres is worked out on the basis of centrality scores derived from new evolved method. The study of market centres in different hierarchic orders along with their characteristics and functional magnitude is a major theme of this second part of the chapter.

Fourth chapter presents the delimitation of the service areas of weekly market centres. The service areas of the market centres have been demarcated by both the empirical as well as theoretical methods. The empirical method employed to delimit the service areas essentially consists the parameters like vegetable supply, customers residence and medical service zone.

Further, a quantitative method of V.L.S. Prakash Rao with its slight modification has been also used to delimit the service areas and an attempt has been made to introduce a new methodological device to delimit the service areas of the market centres. Service areas of the market centres are cartographically mapped and analytically interpreted.

Weekly market centres and rural development has been studied in chapter fifth, and certain development policy strategies have been suggested.

The last chapter is a concluding chapter in which the summary containing significant observations of the study and conclusions are presented.

The basic data pertaining to the market centres have been collected through primary and secondary sources. However, the present work is highly depend on primary type of data which have been collected through questionnaire circulation and intensive field work. The second hand information and secondary data have been collected through district census handbook and socio-economic statistical abstract and other govt. publications and reports. The basic data have been processed, tabulated and presented in a revised form. The relevant data have been represented through maps and their interpretation. Only relevant and important information is included in the form of tables. Various cartographical, quantitative and statistical methods have been used.

In the style of presentation, the references are mentioned at the end of the chapter. A brief Bibliography is also attached.

The maps and graphs in the present work are prepared by author. The cartographic work has completed in the departmental cartographic laboratory. It is hoped that his work adds to the existing knowledge in the field of Marketing Geography.