



Concluding the salient features of the present study one observes that the standard urban area concept introduced by census in 1971 is in many ways complementary to the concept of urban agglomerations. While the urban agglomeration is an approximation of the geographical city. The standard urban area covers not only the built-up city but also the adjoining rural belt which likely to be urbanised in the future. One may say that it is a rural area with an urban core.

Out of five standard urban areas under study four areas namely Satara, Kolhapur, Sangli-Miraj and Solapur have ancient core cities. One standard urban area Ichalkaranji has developed recently and the core city has great dominance of industrial activity. The Shape Index of SUA's under study indicates that Satara SUA has better and efficient shape as compared to other SUA's. The Ichalkaranji SUA indicates very poor shape, where the index is only 0.37 which is lowest amongst the all SUA's under study.

The study of areal growth of SUA's indicate that there is a considerable change in the Ichalkaranji SUA. Remaining all SUA's indicate very little change. This change in the total area of SUA's occurred because of the addition of few new villages which have been created from the old villages but while delimiting their boundaries little area from out side villages has been included in the area of newly created villages. Considering this we may conclude that in general there is no change in the

areal limits of standard urban areas.

In respect of population growth it is observed that almost all the standard urban areas indicate comparatively higher growth rate for urban as well as for rural components but in some cases urban growth rate is seen positive and rural growth rate is negative. In reality it is not true, because the areas which were rural in 1971 have become the part of urban areas, this way the population which was rural during the previous census year becomes urban in the next census year. This affects the strength of rural population. The following two examples will help in clearing the point. In Solapur SUA, Solapur rural has been merged into Solapur city and in Ichalkaranji SUA, village Kabnur has been merged into Ichalkaranji city.

The study of population density in rural and urban components of standard urban areas indicate that there is a considerable positive change in the density. However, this change is more dominant in Kolhapur and Ichalkaranji standard urban areas.

It is normally observed that, when urbanization increases the number of residential houses also increases. The growth of urbanisation encroach upon rural landscape and several residential areas develop out side the city limits but within the limits of standard urban areas. The present study indicates that there in most of standard urban areas, both in rural and urban components the number of houses has increased considerably. In the same way

the percentage of literate population also shows very high positive change in urban as well as in rural components of standard urban areas.

The study of migration in standard urban areas indicates that there are two regions Sangli-Miraj and Ichalkaranji where very high rate of migration is observed during the period of 1971 to 1981. The rate of migration also affects the rate of urbanization.

Standard urban areas have rural and urban components and it is observed that due to urban spread the occupational structure of standard urban areas rural component also changes rapidly. Considering above observation one may conclude that, due to the impact of urbanization several urban occupations found dominating the rural landscape of standard urban areas.

The study of gains and losses of population in standard urban areas, it is observed that excepting Solapur SUA all other SUA's have gain population in most of the urban activities. The highest gain is observed in Ichalkaranji standard urban area where the growth urbanisation is rapid.

When the rate of urbanization is fast, the rural components of standard urban areas rapidly transform their landuse character. When cities grow they expand their limits and occupy the rural agricultural land. Some of the mix landuse characteristics of fringe zone are also observed in the rural components of

standard urban areas. In most of the standard urban areas under study this change has been observed.

The rural components of standard urban areas are closely linked with the core city and with the expansion of city these rural components increase their essential services and functions. The study of standard urban areas have clearly proved that they have gained several new functions and services within a period of ten years (1971-81).

The study of standard urban areas and the validity of the concept clearly proves that standard urban areas are consistent with rural-urban fringe but standard urban areas are more concerned with planning than with the process of urbanization. It must, however, be noted that no serious evaluation of the standard urban area concept and definition has so far been undertaken by urban geographers. In the light of above observations this attempt may prove to helpful to undertake such work.