



In order to provide relevant data on the direction and trend of urbanisation, census organisation has evolved some concepts. In response to ever growing demand in this regard from planners and research scholars, the 'town group' concept was developed in 1961. However, this concept was found to suffer from several draw backs. It has never given due consideration to the potentialities for urbanization of areas intervening between two or more towns grouped together, nor it has given attention to the continuous urban spread.

Because 'town group' concept was found to be not suitable, 1971 census evolved two new concepts, i) Urban agglomeration and ii) Standard Urban Area (SUA). Urban agglomeration which provides for constitution of groups of adjoining towns, with their out growth if any, if they did form a continuous urban spread. Standard Urban Area (SUA) is another concept which was to be delineated as a potentially urbanisable compact territory around a core town. The data of SUA's helped town planners in preparing master plans for cities and towns. It is very useful for the purposes of perspective planning for urban areas.

The concept of standard urban area (SUA) is different from the concept of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA), which was introduced in United States in 1960, to define metropolitan areas in a realistic manner by using three criteria -

- i) Each SMSA must include one city with 50,000 or more population.

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- ii) At least 75% labour force of the country must be in non agriculture industry.
- iii) Integration of the areas that constitute the SMSA is considered i.e. counties are integrated with the country containing the central city if 15 percent of workers living in county commute to the city, or if 25 percent of the workers in the county live in the city. This integration of data can be supplemented by other criteria based on newspaper subscription, retail trade, public transport etc.

In India the need to adopt a regional strategy for city development has been considered and the state government through their respective directorates of town planning delineated standard urban areas in 1971. This SUA has not yet gained academic recognition (V.L.S. Prakas Rao<sup>gar</sup>). It is new concept, hence it is duty of acamedicians to find out the validity of this concept.

#### THE CONCEPT OF STANDARD URBAN AREA (SUA) :

The concept of standard urban area<sup>s</sup> was evolved by the Registrar General, India, in collaboration with the town and country planning organisation and other interested institutions and adopted at the 1971 census for the presentation of urban statistics on a uniform basis while ensuring at the same from one decade to another and with similar data available from other countries.

The essential features of a 'Standard Urban Area' are - Ret

- i) It should have a core town of a minimum population size of 50,000.
- ii) The contiguous areas made up of other urban as well as rural administrative units should have close mutual socio-economic links with core town and,
- iii) The probabilities should be that this entire area would get fully urbanised within a period of two to three decades. The aim is to provide comparable data for a definite and well-demarkated areas of urbanisation continuously for three decades.

The standard urban area may be defined as the projected ✓  
growth area as it would be in 1991 of a city or town having 50,000 or more population in 1971, the area being delineated in a manner that takes into account not only the towns and villages which will get merged in it but also the intervening areas which are potentially urban. Such a tract will include all extra municipal urban growth such as the suburbs (industrial and residential), railway colonies, civil lines and cantonments and also such as those villages and towns which are likely to be urbanised by 1991. The standard urban area (SUA) will thus remain as a statistical reporting unit during three successive censuses, irrespective of the changes in the boundaries of the local administrative units within the tract. The SUA is identifiable by the administrative units that it encompasses, namely city, town or villages.

The boundaries of SUA's are the administrative boundaries of the peripheral units.

Standard urban areas (SUA's) include all areas which have any or all the following characteristics -

a) Permanent urban landuse, b) Intensive interaction with the urban centre as reflected in communication for the purpose of work and secondary education facilities, extension of city bus service, sale of article like milk, dairy products, vegetables (other than those transported by rail or truck) and purchase of foodgrains, clothes and general provisions by the consumers directly. c) Anticipated urban growth as a result of locational decisions relating to industry, market transport and communication, administrative and service functions. d) Existence of big villages with a large proportion of the working force engaged in non-agricultural industrial categories.

In 1971, there were five standard urban areas (SUA's) in South Maharashtra, namely Kolhapur, Sangli-Miraj, Ichalkaranji, Solapur and Satara. In 1981 the number of SUA's increased. There were seven standard urban areas in South Maharashtra, namely Kolhapur, Sangli-Miraj, Ichalkaranji, Solapur, Satara, Pandharpur and Barsi. In the present study we have considered only five standard urban areas excluding Barsi and Pandharpur SUA's because Barsi and Pandharpur SUA's are newly formulated.

According to 1971 census, there were 25 SUA's in all Maharashtra, covering an area of 3841.98 sq.km. The population

of all these SUA's was 12,241,936 persons including 6,833,930 male and 5,408,006 female. The average density of population in SUA's was 3,186 persons per sq.km. In 1981, there were 33 SUA's in Maharashtra covering an area of 4293.07 sq.km. The population of these SUA's was 18,340,924 persons including 1,001,876 male and 8,322,161 female. The average density of population was 4272 persons per sq.km. (Fig.0.1).

In the present study an attempt has been made to find out whether the growth rate of population in SUA's is more than the surrounding areas. Further attempt has been made to find out whether the occupational character of SUA's, particularly their rural components has been influenced by urban character or not ? It also studies the changes in landuse of the area because with the growth of urbanisation landuse character of rural component changes very fast. The study also includes the change in social and economic facilities in the rural and urban components of standard urban areas.

All above aspects have been studied to find out the validity of the concept of standard urban areas (SUA's).

#### DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY :

In the present study most of the data has been collected from secondary sources. 1971 and 1981 census of Maharashtra gives most of the relevant information of standard urban areas.

In the present study various methods have been used. Doi's (1957) method of combinational analysis has been applied for calculating occupational character of SUAs. Shift and share analysis has been used to find out the changes in occupational groups in the SUAs. The volume of migration has been studied by Crude Formula by calculating the natural growth and actual growth of cities. The details of methodology will be given at the proper places.

In the style of presentation, the references are given at the end of each chapter. It was not possible to give all the data collected and processed, therefore, only important and relevant information is included in the form of tables. The maps and graphs have been drawn by the author and are prepared in the departmental cartographic laboratory.

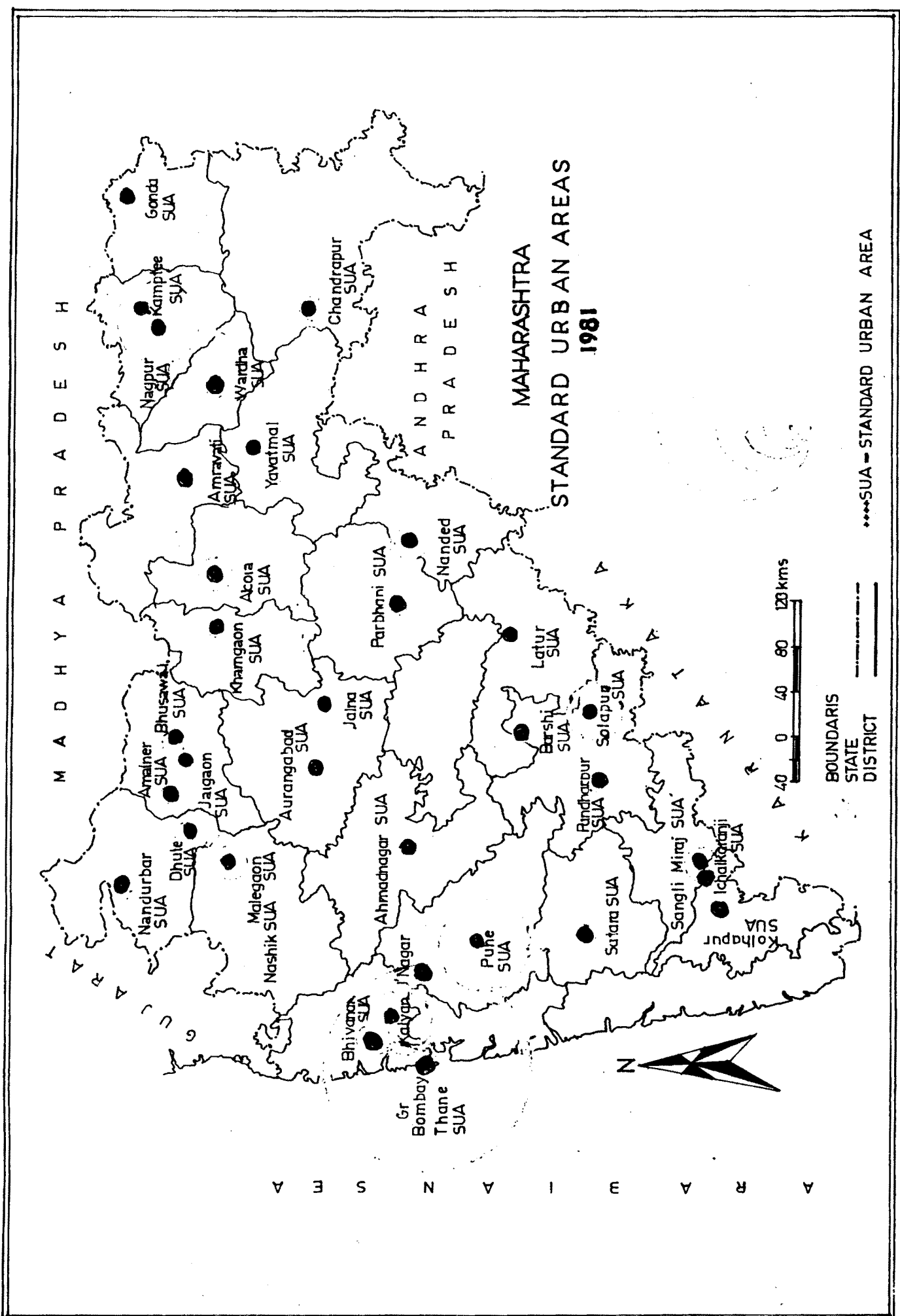
#### CHAPTER OUTLINE :

The entire work has been divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the geographic personality of the study region and historical account of core cities of standard urban areas. In the second chapter the growth of standard urban areas in respect of their area and population has been studied, as a matter of fact the areal size of standard urban areas should remain constant for three decades. In this chapter we have studied the changes in areas and analysed the reasons of areal growth. Similarly, the population growth, it's rate of growth for rural areas has been compared with the general rural growth

rate. The changing density of population, the changes in residential houses, the changes in literacy, are also analysed in second chapter. Third chapter deals with the changes of occupational character of the rural urban components and total standard urban areas. In the fourth chapter we have tried to analyse the changes in agricultural landuse of rural components of all standard urban areas. It is essential to study changes in agricultural landuse because when urbanisation spreads it encroches upon the agricultural landuse of rural components. This chapter also studies the growth in basic essential facilities in the standard urban areas. In fifth chapter, a brief summary and conclusions with meaningful and valuable suggestions are given.

The author has tried to avoid errors and repetition, yet through oversight some error might have <sup>crept in</sup> ~~kept~~ in the text, for which author may be excused. The author will be very happy, if the present work adds to the existing knowledge in the field of Urban studies.





( FIG. 0.1 )

R E F E R E N C E S

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