

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

Urbanisation is universal process which is manifested in the growth of population living in towns and especially in big cities. Urbanisation in developing countries is a very specific process, causing demographical, economical, social, planing and economic-geographical problems. The study of geographical problems of urbanisation particularly in developing countries supposes elaboration of a certain set of notions, generalization of processes observed in different parts of the world.

A systematic study of urbanisation is a recent phenomena even in the developed countries. In India, attempts have been made to conduct socio-economic survey in selected cities in order to understand the problems created by rapid urbanisation. Town planners have also conducted specific survey in several cities, but there are very few attempts to study the trends and growth pattern of urbanisation in India.

The rapid growth of urban population in the overwhelming majority of the developing countries is due to both to its high natural growth and the mounting scale of internal migration flows from rural areas. The poor are pushed out of the villages and pulled into the cities, is the present day picture of Indian scene, which has its bearing on urban growth and increase in urbanisation.

The region under study is one of the progressive state in India where the highest degree of urbanisation (35.03 p.c.) is found.

The present study deals with the post-independence trends of urbanisation and patterns of urban growth in the state of Maharashtra. It is a geographical treatment to the trends and growth of urbanisation in the state.

The study work has been divided into five chapters. Chapter I deals with an Introduction to the region under study and explores geographical setting, physical aspects, drainage and general landuse. Industrial landscape and the network of transportation within the study area are also briefly outlined. 'Urbanisation as process' is widely discussed while considering urbanisation in Indian context. This chapter also incorporates the objectives of present work and data base and methodology.

Chapter II, attempts to highlights the post-independence trends of urbanisation and patterns of urban growth in the state of Maharashtra.

Third chapter, deals with the spatial distribution, characteristic and dynamics of growth of cities of Maharashtra. An attempt has been made to study the post-independence growth and rank order fluctuations of the cities of Maharashtra along with there degree of concentration.

Chapter four presents a detail analysis of the spatial structure of urban distribution in the state. It includes the spatial distribution of urban centres, urban population, degree of urbanisation, degree of urban concentration and the association of urban centres with regional levels of development.

Last chapter is devoted to summary. The summary has been given containing significant conclusion of the study.

In the style of presentation, the references are given in the end of each chapter. It is highly impossible to include all the data collected and processed in the dissertation. Only relevant and important information is included in the form of tables.

The maps and digrams are prepared by author. All data have been processed by author. The author has tried to avoid errors and repetitions, yet through oversight some errors might have occurred in the text for which author may be excused. It is hoped that this work adds very little existing knowledge in the field of urban studies.

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