

**CHAPTER - V**  
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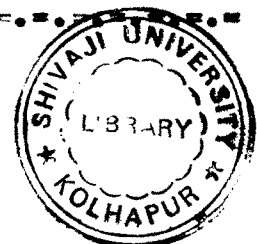
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**C O N C L U S I O N**

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The analysis presented so far has demonstrated the mechanics of the process by which regional distribution of service centres, location of service centres and their service areas have been interacting with each other in the study area.

In the identification and defining the service centres in a country like India, which is undergoing the processes of development and where social and economic bonds of the society are very rigid, one has to be careful. In this context the identification of service centres is based on general observation. In the present work author has evolved a method, for identifying rural service centres, which is appropriate for identifying rural service centres in developing areas. Author has considered five parameters i.e. population size, tertiary population, functional magnitude, connectivity and the status of a settlement in the identification of service centres in the study area with the application of aforesaid criteria's author has identified 35 service centres as a service centre out of 91 settlements in Walwa taluka.

The study of service centres and their spatial distribution, indicate that, apart from the relief and surface configuration other factors like population density and the level of economic development play a significant role in the distribution of service centres.

It is observed that service centres are widely spaced and relatively small in size and are found in the areas of poor level of development and low population density. At the other end of

the scale in the highly developed area, they are closely spaced and their size is comparatively larger.

The inter distance, size and number of service centres are largely governed by economic level of development. Economically poor area possess few service centres of small size, in contrast large size service centres are observed in economically rich areas.

The region under investigation has clustered distribution of service centres where the degree of randomness is 0.72 and the critical value of 3.5 kilometers.

The region has 7 concentration groups of service centres. Out of these 7 groups Rethare Haranax group indicates the highest number of (8) service centres. Three concentration groups include 2 service centres in each where as one concentration group include 3 service centres, Peth and Kurlap concentration group comprise 4 service centres in each. An analysis of concentration and association of service centres within the region indicate that out of the total service centres 10 service centres are not associated with any concentration group. These centres namely Takari, Nave Khed, Walwa, Kameri, Yedenipani, Gotkhindi, Bawacri, Shigaon, Ashta and Karandwadi are found in complete isolation.

Functional magnitude at the service centres shows that large size places have higher services and facilities, small size service centres are characterised with an association of very essential services and daily necessity goods. Medium size service

centres have higher level of functions and functional magnitude than the smaller service centres. The regional distribution of centrality values of service centres within the study area indicate that Islampur has scored the highest centrality value and top the list, whereas Shirte at the least.

Service centres with high centrality values by and large concentration in the banks of the Krishna river. Further it has been found that service centres with lower centrality values are distributed in a Doab region of study area. Lower to medium centrality scores have been observed in the service centres located on the left bank canal of the river Warna.

Regional study of hierarchic distribution of service centres indicates that higher order service centres i.e. Islampur is located nearly at the centre of the study area and extend the various functions and services to the lower order service centres and the rest of the settlements of entire region. Out of the 9 second order service centres Ashta is a urban place and located in the fertile track of soil and good agricultural land. The other 8 service centres of the second order includes Bagani, Koregaon, Bichud, Takari, Bargaon, Kasegaon, Peth and Wategaon. The 3rd order has 25 rural service centres, most of them are concentrated along the river Krishna and Warna.

Blockwise distribution of service centres and their class order hierarchy study highlights that Rethare Haranax block comprise 7 service centres out of which 2 are second order and 5 are third

order. Walwa block has 5 service centres which constitutes 3 service centres of third order and 1 centre each in second and first order of hierarchy. Kurlap block is comparatively a drier patch of the area and economically less developed consist 4 service centres of lower order. Kasegaon, Peth and Kameri blocks have 3 service centres in each.

It is worthy to note that higher order service centres are distributed in economically prosperous areas on the other hand economically backward areas are characterised with the service centres of lower order.

In the study of delimitation of complementary areas of service centres in the region author has applied both the imperical and quantitative methods. The parameters employed for calculating the service areas of service centres were highschool catchment area, market trade area and primary health centre area. In this attempt it has observed that educational institutions like high-school provides the basic educational need to the surrounding rural masses with an average range of 5 to 7 kilometers, primary public health centres facility is available within the range of 5 kilometers from any settlement except western hilly track and market centre provides the marketing facility upto 5 kilometers distance. The 10 kilometers distance has to be travelled by the customers for their marketing activity at the higher order service centres.

For the demarcation of the complementary areas of service centres within the study region author has modified the method of V.L.S.Prakashrao's and evolved a new method and calculated the complementary areas of the service centres.

Regional analysis of service area of the various service centres as computed by new method when compared with original method obviously indicate that if a service centre has got greater functional magnitude then it has a greater range of services in spite of it's smaller size of population.

It is evident from the study of service centres like Kameri and Walwa, the service centre Kameri which ranks 5th in population size has a service area ranging upto 20.64 sq.kms., however, service centre Walwa eventhough ranks third in population size has a service area ranging upto only 4.06 sq.kms., because it lacks in a higher centrality and greater functional magnitude. If the results of these two centres are calculated by original method then they have a range of 14.75 sq.kms. and 11.5 sq.kms. respectively. In this way it is clear that a functional significance of the service centres must be given due consideration rather than merely population size of the centre while calculating its service area.

When the service area of the service centres within the region have delimited with the application of newly evolved method, it has observed that, Islampur, the first order service centre of the area serves larger volume of population and area.

It extends services to 21 lower order service centres and 89 rural settlements of the study area. The service centres of second order hierarchic class includes Ashta, Peta, Takari, Borgaon, Bagani, Bichud, Kasegaon, Koregaon and Wategaon. Ashta serves more than 30,000 population and the area more than 100 square kilometers and six lower order service centres.

Out of the total 35 service centres, 25 service centres are included in third hierarchic order. They serve an average area between 20 to 60 sq.kilometers and their services are offered to a population of ranging between 15,000 to 25,000.

The service area computed by the new method indicates the fact that there is a considerable overlapping in the service area of the service centres in Bethare Haranax block, the another belt of overlapping of the service area is along the left bank of river Warna. Extremely northern and western hilly areas are very poorly served. This leads to the conclusion that the northern and southern margins along the river Krishna and Warna, the area is betterly served, central track is moderately served and non overlapping area of extremely west and northern hilly track area poorly served.