

CONCLUSION

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The realm of urban studies is, however, distinctly multi-disciplinary rather than inter disciplinary. Geographers have tended to adopt a rather eclectic role amongst this varied flora and fauna, collecting bits from urban history from urban economics, from urban sociology and from planning. Their overriding concern, however has been with form and pattern.

A systematic study of urban Geography is given due importance in the present country. The rapid growth of large urban centres is an important characteristic of developing countries.

Rapid growth of industries, higher level of economic development and progressive agriculture brought over all prosperity to the state of Maharashtra, which in turn encouraged the growth of urban population.

The evolution and growth of settlements is the process governed by various socio-economic and political factors. The systems of settlements are continuously under the process of evolution, out of the 25 cities of Maharashtra, eleven cities are of ancient origin. Nearly 10 cities have their origin during the medieval period and remaining five cities have developed during the British period.

Geographers study the interaction between the man, resources and space. The pattern made by the distribution of population on the earth surface is something which is of fundamental relevance to almost any analysis of man and his activities. There are several factors responsible for the growth of urbanization and distribution of urban settlements. The distribution of cities is governed by transport network, industrial growth and overall economic development of the area. In the study area highly developed parts of Western Maharashtra and Konkan have attracted more number of large size cities as compared to Marathwada and Vidarbha.

The rank order relationship of cities clearly indicate the population of primate city is very large as compared to other cities of the area. This fact can be observed in any part of the developing countries like India.

The spatial pattern clearly indicates more agglomeration of cities in the Western Maharashtra as compared to Vidarbha and Marathwada.

The growth character of cities indicates that Industrial cities have a higher growth rate. Most of the cities indicate rapid growth of their population size since independence. The growth rate of old established cities is comparatively low.

The analysis of occupational structure and functional character of cities reveals. The fact that, the cities change

their functional character and occupational structure. The comparative analysis of the occupational data of cities indicate that several cities which were dominated by secondary activity have changed their nature and shifted to tertiary activity with the passage of time.

Few cities like, Ichalkaranji, Bhivandi and Malegaon have remained in the same category throughout the period. Most of the cities indicate dominance of manufacturing, trade and commerce or other service activity. Only two cities Ichalkaranji and Bhivandi are mono functional. According 1971 classification, nearly 14 cities have a more dominance of other services activity, associated with manufacturing, trade and commerce house hold industry or transport storage and communication activities. Out 25 cities, nine cities are dominated by manufacturing activity, only one city Bhusaval is a transport centre and Gondia is influenced by trade and commerce activity.

The functional analysis of cities according to 1981 census classify all cities as other service centres. It would be proper to call all the cities as tertiary activity centres.

The analysis of centrality and hierarchy of cities indicates that, the Bombay and Pune divisions have a balanced distribution of cities and they provide all higher order goods and services to their lower order central places.

In Vidarbha, Nagpur is the only urban centre which provides higher order services and goods other cities are comparatively poor in respect of their central importance. Marathwada as a whole falls very low in the central importance and even Aurangabad, an important city of the area cannot provide most of the specialised services and goods to the lower order places.

Regarding linkage of cities and zone of influence it is observed that, most of cities of Bombay and Pune division serve more urban centres as compared to cities of Marathwada and Vidarbha. The eastern part of Maharashtra is poorly linked with the cities of the area.

The study clearly indicates that, the higher development of industry and agriculture has brought prosperity to the cities of the Western Maharashtra while in Vidarbha and Marathwada cities are yet to develop.

In future the cities between Bombay and Pune urban belt may increase their size and several new cities may emerge the landscape with savage of time.