CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION TO AREA AND METHODOLOGY

- The State of Maharashtra, with 3.08 lakh sq.kms. of an area and 6.27 crores of population in 1981, is the third largest state in the country both in area and population. The geographical location of the study region indicates that it lies between $16°4'$ to $22°1'$ North latitudes and $72°6'$ to $80°9'$ East longitudes. Administratively the entire region is presently divided into six divisions and thirty districts (Fig. No. 1.1). There are 301 tahsil units in Maharashtra. According to 1981 census, the study area has 7.8% rural population and 13.8% urban population of India. It is highly urbanised State of India, where 35.03% population lives in urban areas. There are 276 urban centres in Maharashtra of which 25 urban centres are classified as Class I cities. There are 35778 inhabited rural settlement in the area.

Physically, the state comprises four natural divisions : The coastal low land, hilly area of Sahyadries, the deccan plateau region and Tapi Purna Valley region. There are several important rivers flowing in east-west and west-east direction. The deccan rivers and their tributories flow down the plateau slope eastward. The rivers of Tapi-Purna system flow towards west and the short but swift rivers of Konkan, drain into the Arabian sea. Krishna, Godavari, Tapi, Purna, Wardha and Wainganga are the important rivers of Maharashtra. (Fig. 1.2)

MAHARASHTRA
ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS & LOCATION

MAHARASHTRA IN INDIA

Fig. 1·1

HEIGHT IN METRES

ABOVE 900
600 – 900
450 – 600
300 – 450
150 – 300
0 – 150
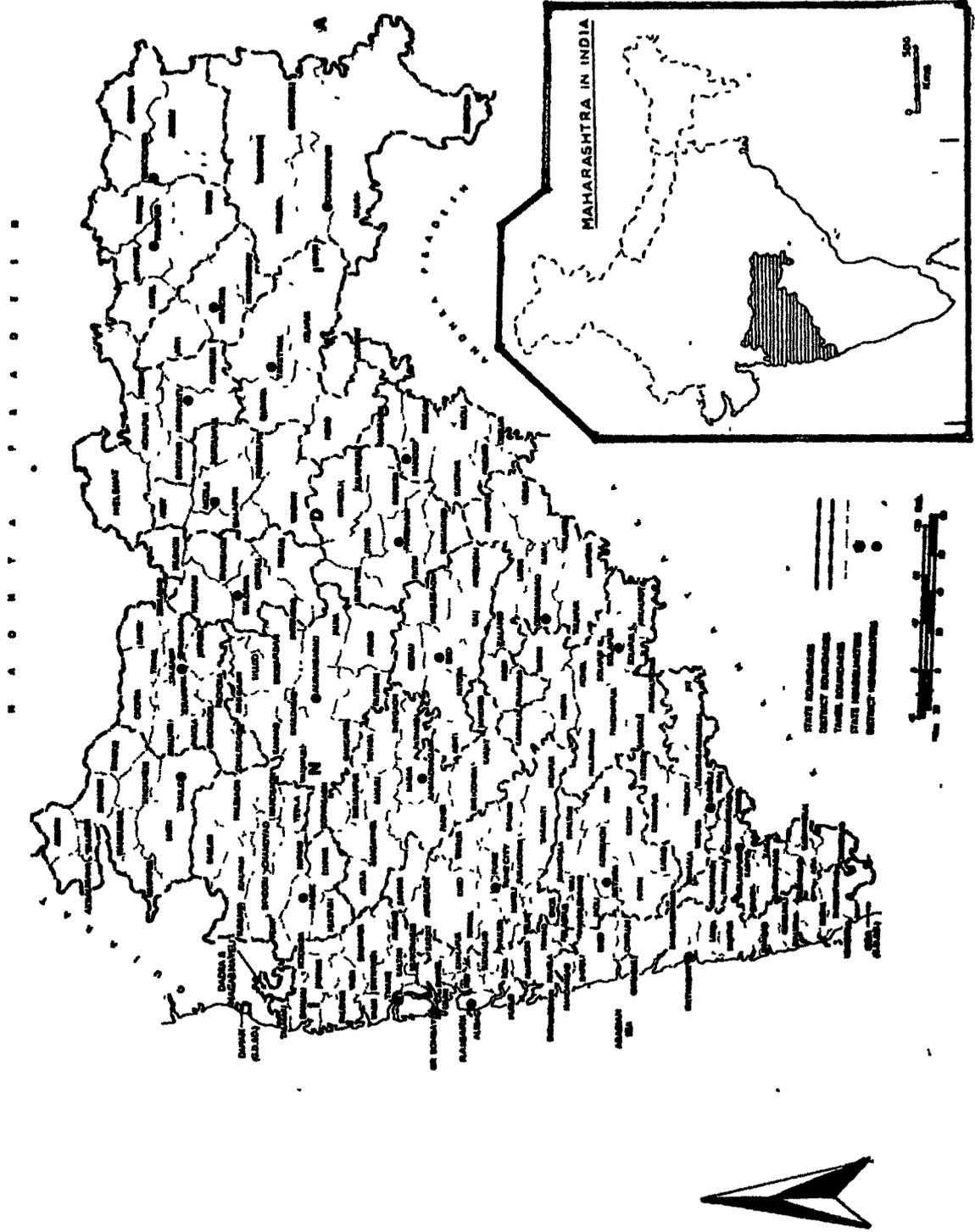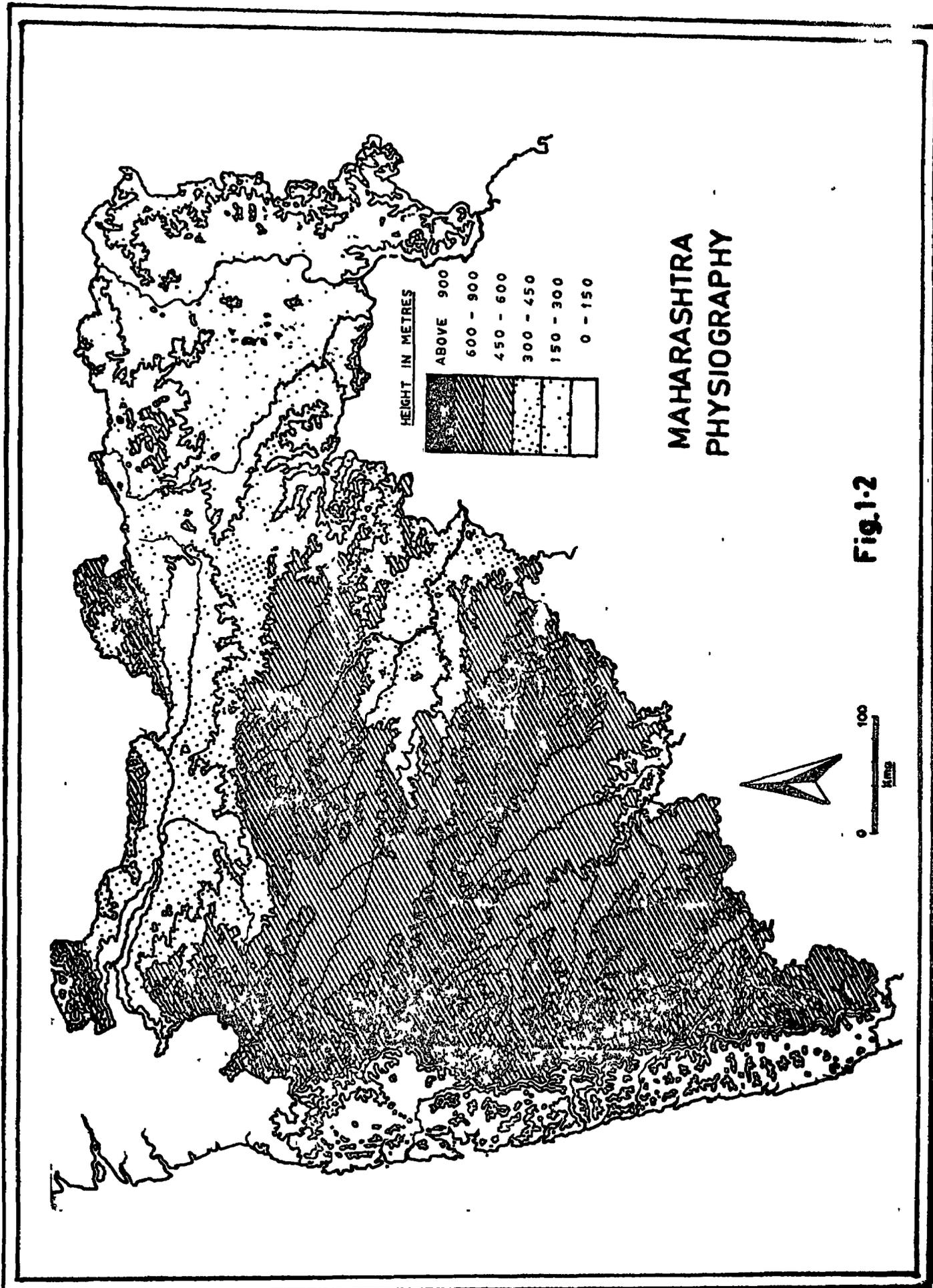
MAHARASHTRA
PHYSIOGRAPHY

Fig.1·2

0 100
Kms
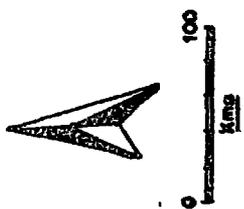
LANDUSE :

The general landuse of Maharashtra indicates that out of the total area, 17.3% is covered by forest and 59.32% land under cultivation. Area sown more than once is only 5.4%. In respect of agriculture it is observed that Pune and Bombay division have developed agriculture where the percentage of land under cultivation is also more. Marathwada and Vidharbha region have more percentage of cultivable land. But the percentage of land under irrigation is less.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of Maharashtra. The State has several irrigation projects which have tried to develop irrigation of Maharashtra. Only 6% of cropped area of the state is under irrigation and it is estimated that in the near future another 4% water potential will be develop in Maharashtra which will help to bring nearly 10% cropped area under irrigation. Sugarcane, tobacco, cotton and groundnut are the important cash crops of Maharashtra. Konkan region is dominated by various fruit crops, pieces and rice. Rice is the stapple crop of the area associated with ragi and millets. Western Maharashtra plateau region is dominated by sugarcane cultivation. Jowar and rice are the important food crops of the area. Marathwada and Vidharbha region are dominated by cotton and groundnut where jowar, and pulses is the stapple food of the people. The eastern part of Vidharbha is dominated by rice cultivation. (See appendix I)

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH :

Industrial development in Maharashtra has been characterised by uncontrolled growth of industries in 'Bombay - Pune ' urban belt. It has created extreme regional imbalance. To solve this problem the State has adopted a delebrate policy of dispersal of industries. The Government has established regional development corporations. These corporations have tried to establish new industries in different parts of Maharashtra. All these industries are financed by M.S.F.C. Bombay - Pune is one important industrial agglomaration of Maharashtra. The another industrial agglomaration is found in 'Kolhapur - Solapur ' urban zone. In Marathwada industrial development is very rapid in Aurangabad and Nanded distrbts. In Vidarbha region only Nagpur area is industrially developed. Compairing the entire Maharashtra, it is observed that Bombay and Pune division have developed more industries as compare to Vidharbha and Marathwada region. In *or resources* Vidarbha, Chandrapur district has rich infrastructure for the development of industries. It is the richest district of Maharashtra in respect of mineral and forest wealth.

According to 1980 reports, Maharashtra has 10.6% working factories of the entire India.

The details regarding various aspects of Maharashtra are given in the appendix attached at the end of Chapter.

DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS :

According to 1981 census there are 276 urban centres in Maharashtra having 21966806 urban population which comes to 35.03% population of the State. Out of these urban centres 25 are classified as Class I cities covering 75.24% urban population of the area. Twenty urban centres are classified as Class II towns. They occupy 5.9% urban population of the State. Eightyone towns are classified as Class III towns and they have a share of 10.9% of urban population. Class IV towns have a share of 6.1% urban population and there are 91 urban centres classified as Class IV towns. There are 43 towns of Class V, having only 1.58% share of urban population Sixteen towns are classified as Class VI towns, sharing only 0.25% urban population of Maharashtra. Table No. 1.1 gives details of number of towns in each class, their population share and their percent population share in 1981. Fig. 1.3 shows the distribution of urban centres in Maharashtra.

MAHARASHTRA
DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN CENTRES
1981

Fig. 1·3

T A B L E - 1.1

NUMBER OF TOWNS IN EACH CLASS, THEIR POPULATION SHARE AND THEIR PERCENT POPULATION SHARE IN 1981

Class	No. of Towns	Population	Percentage of Population in each size Class.
I	25	16527985	75.24
II	20	1306566	5.95
III	81	2390103	10.88
IV	91	1340571	6.10
V	43	346948	1.58
VI	16	54633	0.25
I to IV	276	21966806	100

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCE :

The basic data pertaining to the urban centres and other demographic and socio-economic aspects of the region is collected through several census reports and socio-economic abstracts, district census handbooks, and district gazetters of Maharashtra State.

In the present study various methods and techniques has been used. However it is not appropriate to give the details of all techniques here. The details regarding various, methods and techniques will be discussed in the text at proper places, various indices of distribution, concentration such

as ' Lorenz Curve ', "nearest neighbour analysis," have been used in the study of distribution. 'Doi's Method' has been used to study the functional classification of urban centres. Centrality and hierarchy has been calculated by 'Davies Method' For delimiting the zone of influence a theoretical method of 'Prakash Rao ' is used. The association of variables and parameters has been tested through corelation analysis.

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