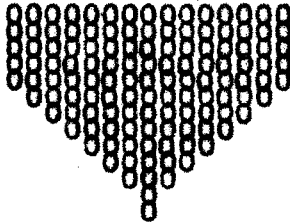


C H A P T E R - I I

AN OVERVIEW

(34 - 45)



2.1 POPULATION GEOGRAPHY :

Geography is a Spatial Science. Population Geography belongs to that borderland of geography which opens on demography, sociology and economics. Population Geography is an area of specialization within the orbit of the major discipline of Geography is a recent development. Despite the pivotal position of man in the totality of the nature of places, he was not subjected to a specialized analysis in systematic geography.

Any basic study or higher study becomes aimless if it ignores man, the social animal, the creator of social institutions. We don't simply live on the earth comprising with the physical gifts and hurdles, but live in variously organised societies. So to attain academic unity the discipline of geography must gravitate around the study of man or people. In fact, Human Geography emerged as a forceful branch with the works of Bruhnes, Huntington, white and Rennes and so on.

It was as recent as 1953 when Prof. Gleen T. Trewartha of the University of Wisconsin made case for Population geography as a sub-division of systematic geography in his presidential address to the Association of American Geographers.

2.2 DEFINITIONS OF POPULATION GEOGRAPHY :

In population geography, the main focus of study is the human population. Trewartha pointed out that the essence of population geography lay in understanding the regional differences in the people covering the earth. In the book 'Population Geography'

published in 1965, J.I. Clarke observes that Population geography is concerned with 'demonstrating how Spatial variations in distribution, composition, migration and growth are related to the spatial variations in the nature of places'.

Madame B eaujeu - Garnier in her book '~~book~~ ' Geography of population', points out that Population geography is concerned with 'describing the demographic factors in their present environmental context, studying also the causes, their original characteristics and possible consequences'.

Wilbur Zelinsky, in his book 'A Prologue to Population Geography', defines Population Geography', ~~defines population geography~~ as 'the science that deals with the ways in which the geographic character of places **is** formed by, and in turn reacts upon, a set of population phenomena that vary within it through both space and time as they follow their own behavioural laws, interacting with each other and with numerous non-demographic phenomena'.

According to Melezin, population geography is the study of population distribution and productive relationships existing within various population groups, the settlement network and its **fitness**, usefulness and effectiveness for productive goals of Society.

Population Geography is, therefore, that branch of discipline which treats the Spatial Variations in demographic and non-demographic qualities of human populations, and the economic and social consequences stemming from the interaction associated with a particular set of conditions existing in given areal unit.

2.3 REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

G.S.Gosal's doctoral work in the mid-fifties on " A Geographical Analysis of India's Population " marks a beginning of Systematic Population Geography in India. Following his theme and methodology, several scholars subsequently brought out doctoral dissertations and research papers in this new field of specialization. However, because of the belated development of geography, not only the volume of work done till 1969 was small but also it did not cover several of the aspects of population.

The new trends of research in this branch reveal not only wider coverage of the various characteristics of population but also improvement in methodology and Scales - macro -, and micro. However, for a comprehensive assessment of the progress made by Population Geography, it would be necessary to take stock of research work done on each aspect separately.

DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY OF POPULATION :

A notable feature of all the studies on population distribution was the use of quantitative techniques to discuss the patterns and to analyse the associated factors. Prakash¹, has mapped tahsil and district level data of Uttar Pradesh to analyse the pattern of density and distribution of population, Ghosh² and Kumar³ have separately studied the distributional pattern of Bihar's population in the context of intra-state variations in physio-economic set-up. Using village-level data for Uppar Bari Doab, Krishan⁴ has highlighted the sensitive role

an international border can play on the demographic pattern of adjoining areas. Mitra and Singh⁵ examined the distributional pattern of population in the Brahmaputra valley.

Mehta⁶ has made a spatial analysis of distribution of population in Rajasthan. Kumar⁷ used 'running mean' as a technique to obtain smoothed surface of population distribution and growth in Mandakini valley of U.P. Shastri⁸ made use of potential model to examine the distribution of population in Vidarbha. Shinde and Shrikhande⁹ made a Spatical analysis of rural population of Maharashtra State.

POPULATION GROWTH AND MIGRATION :

Gosal and Krishan¹⁰ have produced a study on internal migration in India. Singh¹¹ has mapped the growth patterns of Uttar Pradesh, Misra¹² that in Ganga-Ghagra Doab, and Singh¹³ has analysed the netmigration and migrational techniques of rural population of Hissar district (Haryana) respectively.

Making a detailed study of population growth in India during 1961-71, Gosal¹⁴, highlighted the gravity of the situation arising out of continuing, staggering increase in India's population. This study was in continuing with Gosal's earlier contribution to the same theme for the periods 1881-1951 (1957) and 1951-61 (1962). Krishan¹⁵ also examined the patterns of population growth in India during 1961-71 by using districtwise data. Stressing the need of conducting a co-ordinated research at macro, meso and micro levels, Gosal¹⁶ made another study of population change in Punjab during 1961-71. Using centrogaphical

Technique, Shastri¹⁷ analysed spatial variations in population growth in Vidarbha. Chandana¹⁸ analysed the growth of rural population in Kohtak and Gurgaon districts by using village-wise data.

Roy¹⁹ combined the Census statistics with his field-work data in his study of migration patterns in Uttar Pradesh. Das²⁰ made a study of pressure of population and intensity of cropping in Kosi area, Bihar. Sharma²¹ made a regional analysis of Spatio-Temporal patterns of population growth and distribution in Chhattisgarh Region of Madhya Pradesh. Mehta and Mathroo²² examined the spatial patterns of Population Change in Bist Doab (Punjab) 1961-71.

SEX COMPOSITION :

Siddiqi and Ahmad²³ in a collaborative study bring out the regional variations in sex composition of Haryana's population and also the religious differential in sex ratio. Krishan and Chandana²⁴ examined the sex composition of Haryana's population. Banerjee²⁵ made an attempt to depict decaded and regional variation in sex ratio of Singhbhum district. Gill²⁶ studied the spatial perspectives of changes in sex ratio of rural population of Hissar district. Mehta and Kaur²⁷ analysed the rural urban differences in sex ratio of Rajasthan in 1971.

LITERACY :

Krishan and Shyam²⁸ viewed the progress of female literacy in India in the spatial framework. Krishan and Chandna²⁹ examined the patterns of literacy in Haryana by using tahsil-wise data. Banerji³⁰ attempted an analysis of literacy in Singhbhum district of Bihar.

STUDIES IN ETHNIC TRAITS :

Gosal and Mukerjee³¹ have brought out a detailed paper on spatial patterns of religious composition of India's population. Krishan³² traces the spread of the Sikhs outside their home state and the country. Burman³³ has analysed the distributional pattern of Scheduled Tribes of India by using 1961 data. Mukerji³⁴ has studied the patterns of distribution and density of Scheduled Caste population of Andhra Pradesh. Chandna³⁵ has mapped and interpreted the patterns of all the attributes of the Scheduled Caste population of rural Haryana. Singh³⁶ described the origin, habitat, economy and society of Bhils inhabiting Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. Patil³⁷ examined the distributional pattern of Scheduled Caste population in Bhima - Sina interfluvium of Solapur district. Mumtaz Ali Khan³⁸ made a doctoral research on Scheduled Castes and their status in India with special reference to the rural Karnataka.

SYSTEMATIC POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

Prakash³⁹ wrote a doctoral dissertation on " Population Geography of Uttar Pradesh " and Ghosh⁴⁰ on " Population Geography of Bihar ". Both of them took a note of population distribution, growth composition structure and problems of their respective areas. Kaul made a study of population geography of Rajasthan on almost similar lines. At local level, Dube⁴² examined the population and settlements in Baghelkhand in the context of physical and cultural setting of the region. Joshi⁴³ made a detailed study of population patterns of the fifteen mile zone on either side of Dhau-a-Dhar range in Himachal Pradesh.

The above review is a testimony to increasing quantity growing variety and improving quality of work in population geography. These studies were conducted at all levels - macro, meso and micro. However, issues relating to conceptual framework and methodological foundations were raised by none of the scholars. For its healthy growth as a discipline must do introspection for further improvement and progress.

2.4 SOURCES OF DATA :

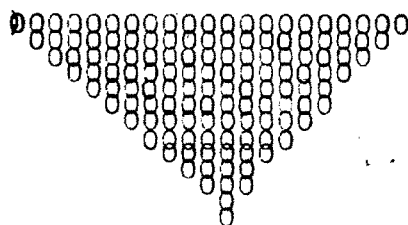
Among the various problems faced by the social scientists, the availability of reliable data is paramount. Depending upon the nature of discipline and its subject matter, various social sciences have developed their own techniques of data collection apart from tapping the suitable official sources. A population geographer, for that matter, requires data pertaining to various aspects of population at a specific point in time as well as about the trends in these aspects through time. Barring local micro-level studies, it is beyond the scope of an individual to collect the detailed information about all the aspects of population for a reasonable span of time. Moreover, the phenomenon of population is too dynamic to permit its coverage for a large area by an individual. Therefore, a population geographer has to look to some official source for a variety of basic data required by him. Fortunately, the population statistics required by population geographers are available largely from a single official source, that is, the Census.

The Census is an extremely useful source of knowledge and the information available through it all over the world " is contributing to a revolutionary expansion of global economic sociological and demographic knowledge ",

However, Secondary data is secondary. It must be complemented by primary data which is essential not only for verification and comparison but also makes one or moulds him to adopt a realistic and rational attitude of mind. He comes to know the " hunches " in data collection techniques and steps required for it as well as in its interpretation. At the same time a go-through in the Tertiary sources like mentioned in ' Review of Literature ' is useful for giving an orientation and a discipline.

2.5 METHODOLOGY :

The title of this dissertation " Population Aspects of Sangli District : A Spatial Interpretation " itself reveals that the study is mainly descriptive and analytical. Infact, main intention is to analyse the facts and figures of certain Aspects of population in Sangli district, its tahsils and all the villages. The author has used number of relevant statistical, Quantitative and cartographic techniques such as differant types of graphs, divided circles, proportional circles and squares, scatter diagram, Lorenz curves, choropleths etc. etc. The more stress is given on cartography as it communicates the facts and ideas clearly and forcefully through a combination of drawings words and symbols. The major field of applied cartography is the technique of actual drawing of maps. Maps stimulate thinking and understanding about the facts and they lay the foundation for attitude formation. Hence, the author has drawn nearly 40 different maps in this dissertation.



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