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CHAPTER : I

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## CHAPTER : I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION :-

Population geography is recently developed branch of human geography. Since 1953, when Trewartha<sup>1</sup> deplored the neglect which population geography has been suffering at the hand of geographers and made a strong case for it. The study of population dynamics, as a specific aspect of population geography is basically concerned with the spatio-temporal variations in different aspects of population.

Population geography has awakened a great deal of interest among geographers which is evidenced by the detailed bibliography on population geography compiled by Zelinsky<sup>2</sup>, Demki G.J. et al.<sup>3</sup> and Chaturvedi.<sup>4</sup> In these studies more attention was paid to the distribution and numerical growth of population on macro and meso level. However on micro level distribution and growth of population were dealt with in very few geographical researches.

The analysis of the population distribution and density is fundamental for understanding the population geography of any area.<sup>5</sup> The population distribution means the spatial arrangement of people in a region,

which is mainly based on the aggregate of investigations about the people within small areal units of a region. Population distribution is a dynamic process which is everchanging and its cause and effect vary in spatio-temporal frame.<sup>6</sup>

Population density is another significant measure of population studies. This is a ratio between population and land. It denotes degree of population concentration and is generally expressed in terms of persons per unit area. There are various types of densities. All these densities help in the diversity of man's distribution in space. The regional variation in the distribution and density of population is largely affected by the physical environment, economic conditions, cultural patterns and past history of area.<sup>7</sup>

Geographical study of population growth of a region is also of vital importance for understanding its dynamism as well as for planning at the local and regional level. An increase or decrease in the population may bring about a versatile change in the man-land ratio. Keeping the above view point in mind, it is proposed an humble efforts towards great task of exploring the spatio-temporal changes in distribution and growth of population in Satara district which is a virgin area for such type of study. A substantial reason to undertake the satara district as study region

is the familiarity and attachment of the author with it.

## 2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :-

Following are the major objectives of the present study.

- i) To discuss the dynamic character of the distribution of population in the study area,
- ii) To analyse patterns of different densities of population,
- iii) To analyse the growth of total and rural population in terms of time and space,
- iv) To study the growth of urban population,
- v) To study variation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population,
- vi) To find out 'Population - growth types', in the study area.

## 3.0 SOURCE OF DATA AND INFORMATION :-

The present study is entirely based on secondary data. Therefore the required data has been collected from the following four main sources :-

- i) Census reports published by Government of India,
- ii) Vital statistics,
- iii) Reports published by Government of Maharashtra,

- iv) Miscellaneous sources published and unpublished sources.

Besides above few data and information have been taken from the certain dissertations, books and journals that have been mentioned under the heading of 'Bibliography'.

#### 4.0 METHODOLOGY :-

In the present study taluka has been taken as a basic unit of investigation. The study of spatio-temporal changes in distribution, density and growth of population in the study region is based on 1971-91 census data. However recent changes in the study region's population growth has been examined in the short term perspective of four decades (1951-91) by taking study region as a whole.

To find out 'Population growth types in the study region three variables i.e., (i) density, (ii) absolute increase per Km<sup>2</sup> and (iii) relative increase have been taken for each taluka in relation to the study region average for those variables during the decades 1971-81 and 1981-91.

The growth of total, rural, urban, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population is measured by using the following formula.

$$r = \frac{P_2 - P_1}{P_1} \times 100$$

Where,

$r$  = is the growth of population in percent

$P_2$  = is the population in the latest period

$P_1$  = is the population in the past

On the basis of different densities and growth of population the study region has been divided into different groups. e.g. very high, high, moderate, low and very low.

Number of choropleth maps are prepared for supporting the analysis of distribution and growth of population.

#### 5.0 DESIGN OF THE STUDY :-

The present study has been divided into five chapters. Introductory chapter is devoted to the introduction, objectives of the study, source of data and information, methodology adopted in the present analysis and design of the present study.

The second chapter consists of geographical setting of the study region. In this chapter there are three sections- Physical setting, Economic setting and Population characteristics. The physical description largely includes physiography, geology, drainage,

climate, soil types, forests while economic setting examines the characteristics of land utilization, agriculture, irrigation, minerals, industry and transport network. Third section deals with the salient characteristics of some aspects of population in the study region with comparison to Maharashtra State and India.

The third chapter deals with the analysis of patterns of different densities of population in 1971, 1981 and 1991. This chapter also deals with analysis of spatio-temporal changes in distribution of total, rural, urban population during three decades (i.e. 1971, 1981 and 1991).

Fourth chapter analysis the growth of population since 1951 taking into consideration study region as a whole. Analysis of growth of total, rural, urban, scheduled castes and scheduled tribe population at taluka level for the period 1971-91 has been done in this chapter. Further in this chapter it is also attempted to recognise population growth type in the study region by using Chakravarti's methodology.

Summary and conclusion of the entire study have been given in the fifth chapter. And with the mention of selected bibliography the work ends.

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