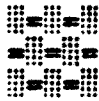


CHAPTER - I



I N T R O D U C T I O N



- 1.1 Need and significance of the study
- 1.2 Area under study
- 1.3 Objectives
- 1.4 Hypothesis
- 1.5 Data base and Methodology
- 1.6 Review of the literature
- 1.7 Chapter outline
- References



1.1 NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY :

This study is concerned with the explanation of the distribution of population and associated socio-economic facilities in Kagal taluka of Kolhapur district. Population is an important factor and it plays a vital role in country's socio-economic development. Since, India's population has been increasing at a alarming rate of almost 2.5 percent per annum, and it has effect on socio-economic development of the country. There is thus more need of socio-economic facilities in India. The total population viz. rural and urban is taken into consideration for studying the spatial distribution and the growth rate during the period 1961 to 1991. For the present study eight socio-economic facilities viz. medical, education, post and telegraph, electricity, transport, weekly market, bank and patpedi are considered.

The studies pertaining to spatial patterns of population and socio-economic facilities have been attempted by the geographers during the recent past. The population of any region has been served by different socio-economic facilities and the studies of which form the bases, for regional planning. The availability of these facilities, in proportion to growth of population, is essential for balanced development. However, these facilities have not kept pace with the fast growth of population in different parts of India. The planning period has been characterised by the provision of socio-economic facilities in rural areas but there

are many villages which are yet to be covered by these schemes. These weaker areas invite attention of planners for suitable strategy of socio-economic development. Therefore, the study pertaining to the distributional patterns of population and its relationship with socio-economic facilities plays a dominant role in the regional planning and development process.

Through Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP) and District Level Planning, various socio-economic facilities were provided to rural areas to bring about rural development. Besides this, attempts were made to establish agro-processing units, agricultural produce markets, banking facilities, credit societies in rural areas on co-operative basis. The government is providing long term loans for agricultural development through land mortgage banks leading to rural transformation. The attempts were also made to provide facilities like post, electrification, education, communication, health, transportation, drinking water etc. However, these facilities seem to be inadequate in some villages resulting into unbalanced picture of socio-economic facilities according to the size of population.

The socio-economic facilities have assumed special significance with growing emphasis on the quality of life at all levels, particularly in rural areas (Singh and Rai, 1987). The rural development concerns not only man's material needs but also the improvement in the socio-economic conditions of his life. The rural prosperity is regarded as a comprehensive development of the economic and social facilities of a specified

geographical area. Thus, " Development is not just economic growth but it is the growth plus the change in the standard of living," (Bhende Asha and Kanitakar Tara, 1978).

This type of study can be helpful to planners and administrators for future planning and development of socio-economic facilities in administrative unit. It is in this context, the present study is undertaken to analyse the association between population and socio-economic facilities in Kagal taluka of Kolhapur district.

1.2 AREA UNDER STUDY :

a) Choice of Area :

Kagal taluka, an administrative sub-unit of district, has been selected for the present study. The choice of the area under study is a result of many considerations. The following are some of them, which motivated me to undertake this taluka for the study.

- 1) Taluka is the home region of the author and the researcher is familiar with the changing socio-economic conditions of the region.
- 2) Like the district, the taluka has been characterised by upward trend in the growth of population during the last three decades.

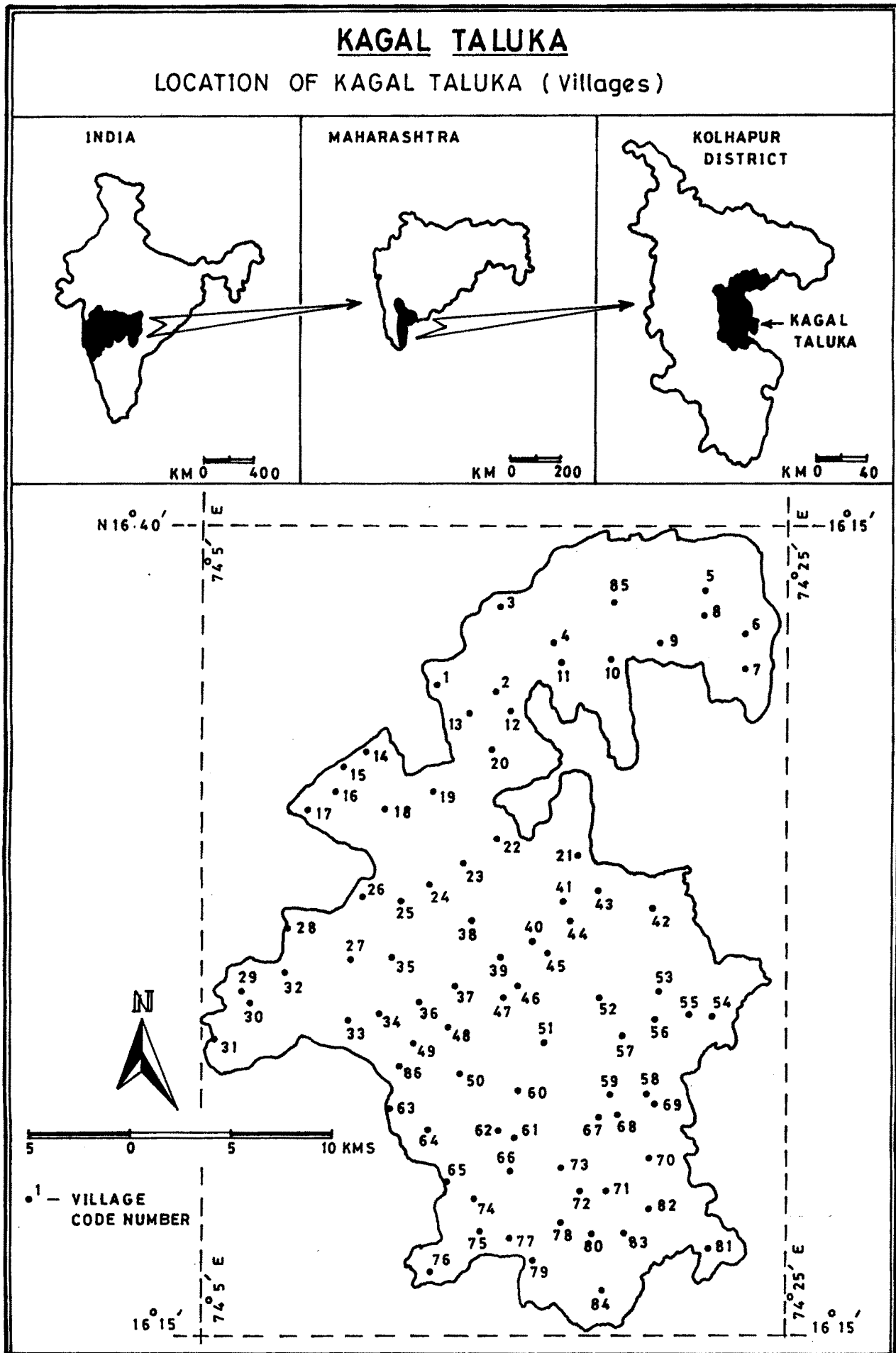


Fig. 1-1

- 3) Kagal taluka is one of the most important prosperous taluka in Kolhapur district, where the development of agriculture is associated with the enrichment of socio-economic facilities.
- 4) The provision of irrigation facilities have transformed agriculture during the recent past. Consequently, the region has witnessed the establishment of two sugar factories. This has lead for the increase in the income level of the farmers who always try to upgrade their living standard.
- 5) The emergence of sugar factories has strengthened educational, transport and communication facilities which have become the essential needs of the people.
- 6) The present attempt is made with a view that the studies dealing with population and socio-economic facilities in Kagal taluka have not attempted so far.

b) Location :

The study area lies between 16°15' to 16°40' North latitude and 74°5' to 74°25' East longitude (Fig.1.1). The Kagal taluka has a total geographical area of 547.5 sq.kms with 84 villages and two urban centres. The taluka supports population of 2,12,128 in 1991 census. The population density of the taluka is 387 persons per sq.km. It is bounded by Chikodi taluka in east, Karveer taluka in the north, Raĥhanagari and Bhudhargad in west and Gadhingluj and Ajara talukas in south.

c) Relief, Climate and Soil :

The geographical location of the Kagal taluka is marked by contrasting physical characteristics in its different parts. The average height from mean sea level is about 500 metres.

There is only one main system of hills and that is the Sahyadri range and its offshoots. The main Sahyadri range forms the western boundary of the Kolhapur district and in Kagal taluka there are two offshoots of it. The off-shoots which extend to east have east-west trend and extend only for about 24 kms. These offshoots separate the basins of Vedganga, Dudhganga and Chikotra rivers.

The climate of Kagal taluka is generally hot and the seasons show considerable uniformity. They are not subject to abrupt changes or extreme heat or cold. The rainfall is not uniform in all parts of the taluka. A major portion of the taluka lies in the rainshadow zone to the west of Sahyadri ranges. The average annual rainfall in the taluka varies widely from about 650 to 900 mm. Through out the taluka the rain falls from May to November. However, the rainy season starts from June and lasts upto the end of October. Hot weather is observed from March to May. Maximum temperature 32.2°C and minimum temperature is 29.4°C in taluka. Soil types differ from area to area. But, as the region is a part of Deccan plateau, the major part of the taluka is covered by deep black soils. This soil is

**Table 1.1 : Kagal taluka - Distribution of rainfall
and temperature.**

| Sr. No. | Month | Rainfall in cm. | Temperature (°C) | |
|------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------|---------|
| | | | Minimum | Maximum |
| 1 | January | - | 15.8 | 31.8 |
| 2 | February | - | 16.2 | 32.6 |
| 3 | March | - | 18.3 | 33.9 |
| 4 | April | - | 21.0 | 37.7 |
| 5 | May | 81.9 | 22.7 | 34.6 |
| 6 | June | 26.9 | 22.3 | 28.8 |
| 7 | July | 119.3 | 21.4 | 26.4 |
| 8 | August | 121.6 | 21.2 | 26.0 |
| 9 | September | 10.6 | 20.6 | 28.3 |
| 10 | October | 53.8 | 20.4 | 31.5 |
| 11 | November | 15.2 | 19.3 | 29.8 |
| 12 | December | - | 16.3 | 29.4 |

SOURCE : Kolhapur District, Socio-Economic
Review, 1990-91.

KAGAL TALUKA

SOIL TYPES RELIEF DRAINAGE PATTERN

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE

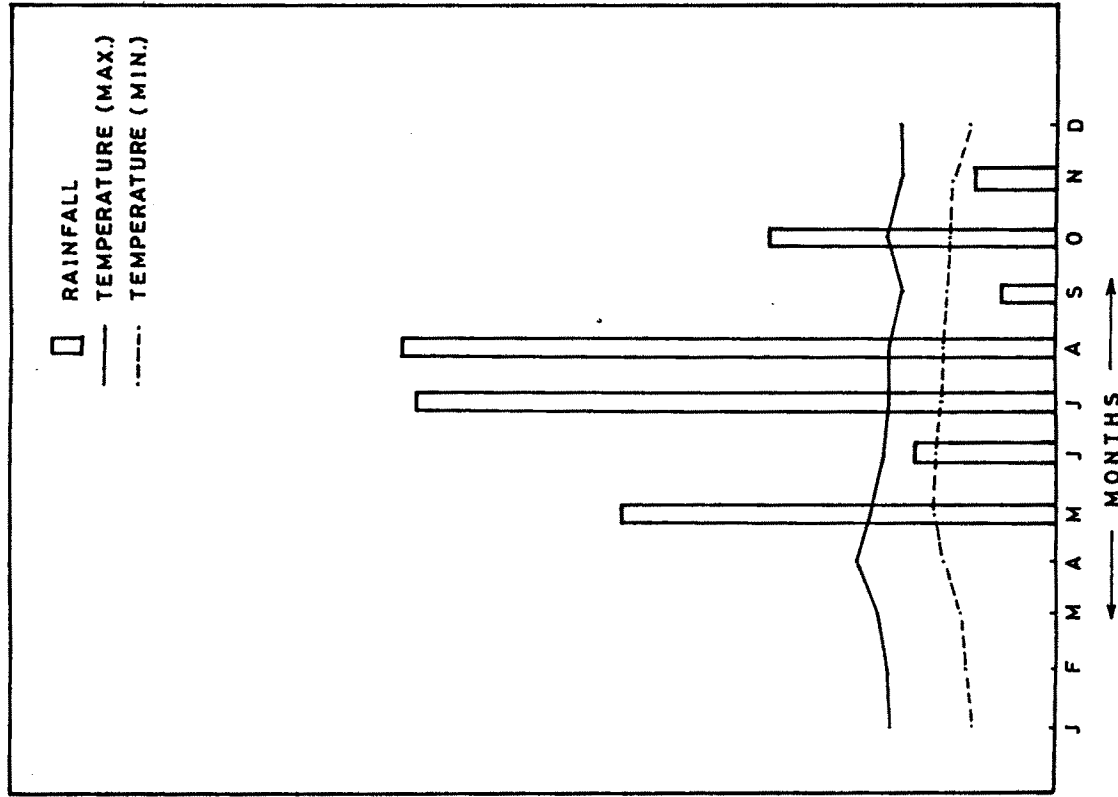
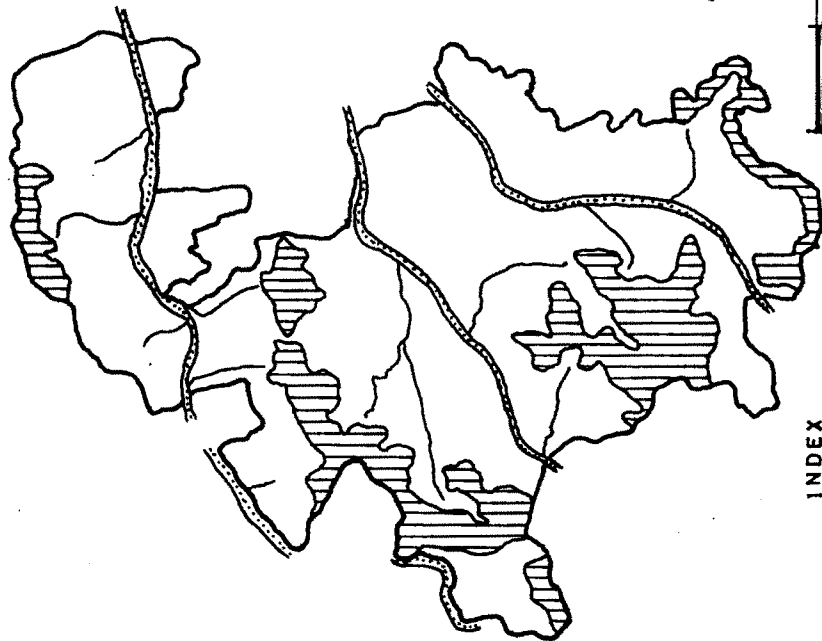


Fig. 1.2

quite fertile and yield good crops of Kharif jowar, rice and groundnuts. They are fairly rich in phosphorus contents and the crops respond well to application of nitrogen. Sugarcane, vegetables and tobacco are grown on them successfully.

1.3 OBJECTIVES :

This problem is directly linked with the study of selected socio-economic facilities and distribution of population. Therefore, the specific objectives of the study are as under :-

- (i) To show the growth and distribution of population.
- (ii) To map the existing socio-economic facilities in the taluka.
- (iii) To identify the areas of adequate and inadequate socio-economic facilities.

1.4 HYPOTHESIS :

In order to fulfil the above objectives the following hypothesis have been formulated.

- (i) Socio-economic facilities are not keeping pace with the growth of population.
- (ii) Socio-economic facilities are not evenly distributed all over the area under study.

1.5 DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY :

To achieve the above objectives and to test the hypothesis the data for the selected socio-economic facilities are collected from both the primary and secondary sources. Secondary data are obtained from the census handbook of the Kolhapur district, socio-economic review, census of India, Maharashtra census tables and abstracts, vocational survey of towns in Kolhapur district and district gazetteers. Primary data essential for the present study are gathered through the intensive fieldwork.

Different cartographic and statistical techniques are used in this study. Choropleth technique is mainly used for presentation of data. The weightage score method given by Betal (1984) is used for showing the distribution of socio-economic facilities. Concentration Index Value for selected facilities is computed. The distribution of socio-economic facilities is shown by symbolic method. Simple correlation technique is used for analysing the association between the population, settlement and socio-economic facilities. For demarcating the areas of sufficiency and deficiency of facilities, the population threshold for a particular function is decided. The threshold population is estimated by two ways, viz. considering the lowest unit of population where that function appears and by calculating the simple median value.

1.6 REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE :

In the present century many scholars have created the interest in the study of distribution and growth of population. The geographical studies on population are plenty in India and abroad. The socio-economic development study is also the part of population study, but the studies with special emphasis on association between population and socio-economic facilities are comparatively few. Mention may, however, be made of some of the studies by Indian scholars in this regard.

Betal H.R. (1984), studied the 'Impact of socio-economic facilities on the distribution of population in Madinapur Dist.' In his study he observed that, there are some parts where all the facilities are surplus than actually needed and the other parts of the district are poorly served by the facilities. In eastern police stations, there is more concentration of population, but facilities are less. Whereas, western police stations are well served by the facilities.

Banarjee S. and Chakrabarti A. (1978), studied the 'Spatial patterns of socio-economic characteristics in Calcutta metropolitan district.' In their study they observed that spatial patterns of socio-economic characteristics in Calcutta metropolitan district in (1961) were mainly the products of Calcutta's influence as well as the impact of Hooghly industrial belt.

Gill M.S. (1980) studied the 'Distribution and density of rural population in Hissar district, Harayana 1971.' In this study he compared the Hissar district with the rest of Harayana and observed the areas of contrasts in density of population. High density is associated with intensity of irrigation facilities, proximity to urban centres and main transport arteries. On the otherhand low density is characteristic feature of drought prone begger areas as well as area of very recent settlement.

Rao D.S. and Reddy N.B.K. (1982) studied the 'Spatial variation of social amenities within the city region of Andhra Pradesh'. In this study they observed that cities are better served than rural areas by social amenities. The study also shows the fact that there is no definite relationship between the population size of a city and the standard of social amenities. There seems to be a strong positive relationship between a city and its hinterland with respect to the level of social amenities.

Singh D.N. and Rai S.C. (1987) studied the 'Spatial organization of socio-economic facilities in Kopogani Block (Azamgarh district - U.R.) An appraisal of existing structure'. In this study they suggested that the desired spatial planning can be achieved only through provision of a balanced socio-economic spatial organization system. Some facilities like primary schools are available in considerable number, while

others like fertilizer distribution centres, veterinary hospitals and banking are far short of minimum requirement. In between there are facilities such as highschool, intermediate colleges and rural health centres which need increase in their numbers.

Besides the above many others such as Chandana R.C. (1969) studied changes in demographic character of Rohtak and Gurgaon districts in Punjab. Gosal G.S. (1982) studied recent population growth in India. Kumar A. (1971) studied distribution and displacement of population in Bihar state.

1.7 CHAPTER OUTLINE :

The present study entitled 'A study of socio-economic facilities in Kagal taluka of Kolhapur district' is divided into five chapters. In the first chapter the problem of study, it's significance, regional profile, objectives, hypothesis, sources of data, methodology, review of literature and outline of the work is presented. In the second chapter, the distribution, growth and density of population is attempted. Third chapter is concerned with the distribution of selected socio-economic facilities in the study area is analysed. The conclusions are given in chapter five. The relevant references are given at the end of each chapter and general bibliography is listed in the last.

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