

**“RURAL SERVICE CENTERS IN  
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## **“RURAL SERVICE CENTRES IN KHANDALA TALUKA “**

### **6.0 INTRODUCTION**

Rural settlements as a cultural bearing units are mirror of the region where the civilization originate, develop and spread into the whole sphere of human life. There is an increasing outflow of classified information about economic life of villages and central places e.g. demographic features, occupational structure, financial assets and liabilities, production functions, cost and return and disposal of marketable surplus. Rural settlement is the spatial differentiation of the grouping of houses and highways on any landscape where social cohesion and cultural ties strengthened according to the needs of the society (Mandal, 1979). It is also regarded as the topographic expression of the grouping and arrangement of two fundamental elements of houses and highways ( Brunhes , 1952 ).

Considering the above aspects, a study of rural settlement in Khandala Taluka of Satara district has been undertaken. The present work intends to study rural service centres and their hierarchic order of the study region.

### **6.1 REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The centrality of the rural service centres is measured by the various ways. The study of centrality and hierarchy of rural service centre is very important for knowing the present situation of the area. The centrality of the region is measured by various ways and taking into consideration single or several functions, which are available at place.

The Christaller (1933) has used single function index, A.E Smailes (1944) has been used service frequency, Dickinson

(1934) used wholesale sale of the place to centrality. A. E. Smailes (1944) has used banks, offices, shops, schools, hospitals by measuring area as a particular central place. Berry and Garrison (1958) have considered all important functions for calculating centrality. Davies ( 1977 ) has used retail establishments for calculating centrality index.

In India several geographers have been used various functions to measure the centrality of a place. O.P. Singh (1971) has taken population as a criteria 'engaged in commercial activities, N.D. Bhattacharya, R.B. Mandal, R.C.Tiwari, A.P. Kumbhar and S.S.Chaudhari have studied various aspects of rural settlements and rural service centre for their study region.

## **6.2 RURAL SERVICE CENTRES IN KHANDALA TALUKA**

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to identify the rural service centres, their centrality and hierarchy for the study region. In the study region, most of the rural settlements are small in size in relation to the various functions and their population, therefore, these settlements have less functions and services. These functions and services plays an important role in the economic organization of the study region.

## **6.3 CENTRALITY OF THE RURAL SERVICE CENTRES**

To study of rural service centres, the region must have some important central places. The nature of settlements should be town or city, which provide various types of goods and services to the surrounding region. The centrality of settlement depends on the functions. A rural service centre is defined as a place, which supplies the social, considering above definition the service centre provides economical, social and administrative needs of the region as well as itself.

## **6.4 IDENTIFICATION OF RURAL SERVICE CENTRES IN KHANDALA TALUKA**

In the present study, the following criterias have been used to identify the rural service centres.

To identify a rural service centre a settlement which have a minimum population of 2400 persons and any three following functions of lower orders.

GROUP A 1) High School

GROUP B 2)a) Dispensary  
b) Health Centre  
c) Family planning Centre  
d) Maternity Home

GROUP C 3) Weekly Market

GROUP D 4) a) Post Office  
b) Post and Telegraph Office.

On the basis of these criteria rural service centres have been identified. In the study region there are six rural centres.

With the help of population as a primary index and thoses places which having minimum of three basic facilities have been included for selection as rural service centres. After the identification of the rural service centres the questionnaire is prepared and detail data of functional association of rural service centres has been collected.

#### **6.4METHODOLOGY**

The centrality of a place can be measured by several ways by taking into account a single function or all functions available at the centre. Davis W.K.D. (1967) has used several functions and calculated Locational index for each function .The method of Davis gives the total serving capacity of any rural service centre. This index is not related to the population of rural service centre.

In the present study, various functions have been taken for the calculating centrality values. The centrality is calculated by using various methods. Some geographers have

been taken single function or several functions. In the present study centrality values are determined by using Davis W.K.D. method. (1967).

Formula-

$$C = \frac{t}{T} \times 100$$

Where as

C is a location quotient of any region

t is a single function

T is a number of particular functions in the area.

By using this method the centrality score is determined the centrality index of rural service centers.

Table-VI-I

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### Centrality Score of the Rural Service Centres

Sr. No.	Rural Service Centre	Population (1991)	Centrality Score	Rank
1	Lonand	12211	54.89	1
2	Shirwal	8679	23.25	2
3	Khandala	4235	13.14	3
4	Bhade	3338	04.68	4
5	Bavda	2766	02.93	5
6	Khed Bk.	3407	01.11	6

## **6.6 HIERARCHY OF RURAL SERVICE CENTRES**

In the present work, hierarchy of rural service centre has been calculated based on the centrality scores obtained by them. To classify rural service centres in different orders of their centrality scores and these scores are plotted on a graph. The plotting on graph clearly shows the different slopes grouping rural service centres of different orders as follows. ( fig. 5.1 )

Table No. VI – II

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### **Centrality Score and No. of Service Centres in Each Category**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Centrality Score</b>	<b>No. of Service Centres</b>	<b>% of total</b>
1	Above 30	1	16.66
2	20 to 30	1	16.66
3	10 to 20	1	16.66
4	Below 10	3	50.02

Considering the centrality score, they are grouped into four categories. In first group i.e. above 30, one rural service centre i.e. Lonand ranks first. The Shirwal and Khandala rank second and third respectively. In the fourth group, the Bhade, Bavda and Khed BK. are included (fig.6.2).

The first order service centre namely Lonand having the highest centrality score of functions and regional importance, serves the entire study area. It is an important market centre where the marketing of agricultural product takes place, mainly onion.

The place has several educational institutions. Lonand is an important commercial centre having number of retail and wholesale traders. It is an important onion market place. Besides this there are other functions such as work shops, recreation, banks, and health centre which serves the needs of lower order in

the hierarchy. It serves more villages and more population of the surrounding region.

The second order rural service centre include only one service centre, i.e. Shirwal . It has higher functional importance. Shirwal provides educational services, retail and wholesale trades, health services and important commercial and transport centre on the National Highway No.4. It serves considerable area and number of small villages of the area.

The third order includes one rural service centre namely Khandala having centrality score of 13.14. Khandala is a taluka headquarter, and have administrative services. Therefore it is a functionally important centre. Khandala serves more area and population of the study region.

The last hierarchic order i.e. fourth in which 3 rural service centres are included. These service centres are Bhade, Bavda and Khed Bk. These centres hold very few functions. They provide the only basic lower order services and functions and serves very few villages of the surrounding region.

### **6.7 RURAL SERVICE CENTRE AND THEIR LINKAGE**

The first order rural service centre is Lonand having the highest magnitude of functions and regional importance, it serves the entire study region. The second order of rural service centre includes at Shirwal. Shirwal has higher functional importance and it serves considerable area and lower order rural service centres of the study region. Khandala is included in the category of third order. Most of the lower order rural service centres are linked with Khandala. The last order rural service centres are Khed Bk. They only provide the basic lower order services and functions and serve very few villages in their neighborhood. The figure 6.2 shows the hierarchy of rural service centres and their linkage.

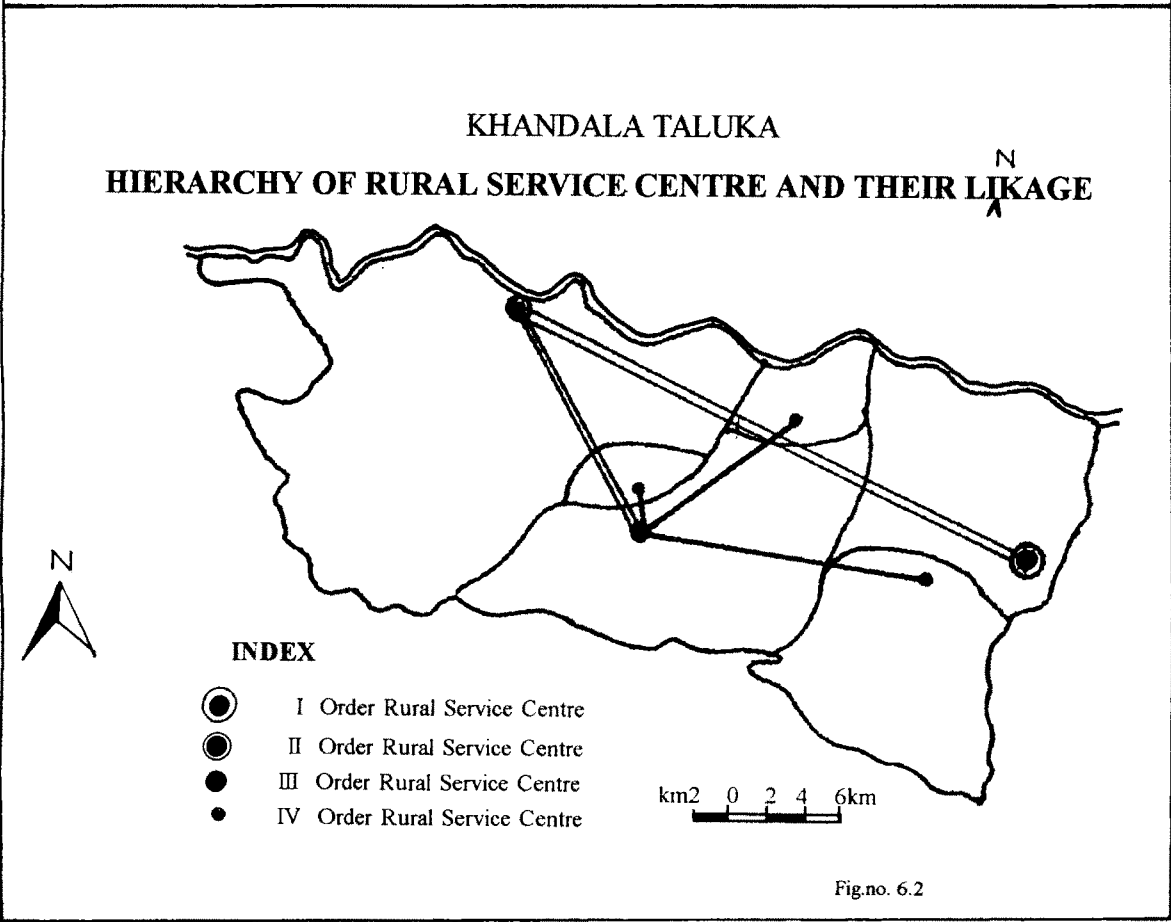
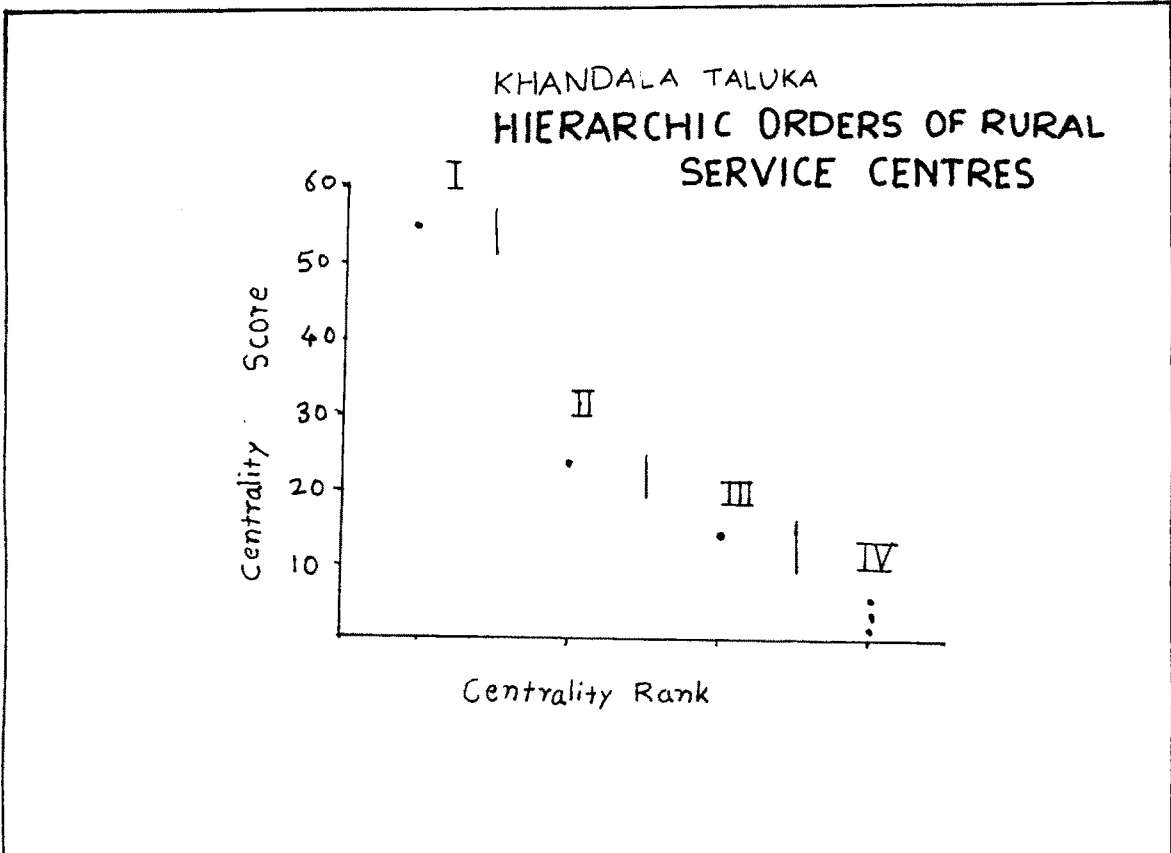


Fig.no. 6.2



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