

INTRODUCTION

Growing urbanisation is a recent phenomenon and during the last fifty years, urbanisation in India is increasing at a very high rate. With the growth of urbanisation, the size of urban places also increases; increasing population demands more space, which in turn demands expansion of the city limits. This expansion of city limit changes the fringe zone of a city. The present work aims to study the existing fringe zone of Solapur city and to find out how urbanisation influences the rural landuse and socio-economic characteristics of rural population in the fringe zone of a city.

In the present study, the fringe zone of Solapur city has been delimited by a particular method and to study the changes in rural landuse and socio-economic characteristics of rural population, sample villages from the fringe zone have been selected. At the same time data have been collected for the villages which are outside the fringe zone, because it was essential to show how land-use and socio-economic characteristics in the fringe area have been influenced by the urban impact of Solapur city.

The entire work is divided into six Chapters. The first Chapter deals with the concept of "Rural-Urban Fringe" in which a brief review of the concept and the work done in this field has been taken. The second Chapter deals

with introduction to the area, its physical personality and methodology used in the present study. In this chapter, methods of delimiting the urban fringe zone and the methods of delimiting the urban umland have been discussed. In the third Chapter, urban influence of Solapur city and its immediate umland have been delimited. It is essential to study the umland of a city because fringe zone of a city is closely linked with city and it is a part of immediate umland of urban centre. In the fourth Chapter, the factors of fringe demarcation and physical characteristics of fringe zone have been studied. In the fifth chapter the impact of urbanisation on rural landuse has been studied for which the landuse data of nine villages has been collected for the last twenty years. The sixth Chapter deals with the influence of urbanisation on demographic, social and economic characteristics in the fringe zone.

The data used in the present study have been collected from Census Handbook and Socio-economic abstract of Solapur district. Some useful data have also been collected from the Gokhale Institute, Pune. For the delimitation of fringe zone and zone of influence of Solapur city, extensive field work has been undertaken and data from the various sources have been collected through field interviews, written records and with the help of questionnaire.

Several geographers now-a-days are interested in the study of fringe zone. I hope, the present work may add some knowledge in the study of fringe zone of a city.

All work has been carefully arranged and great care has been taken in preparing the manuscript. The author may be excused for any mistake in the manuscript left over through oversight.