

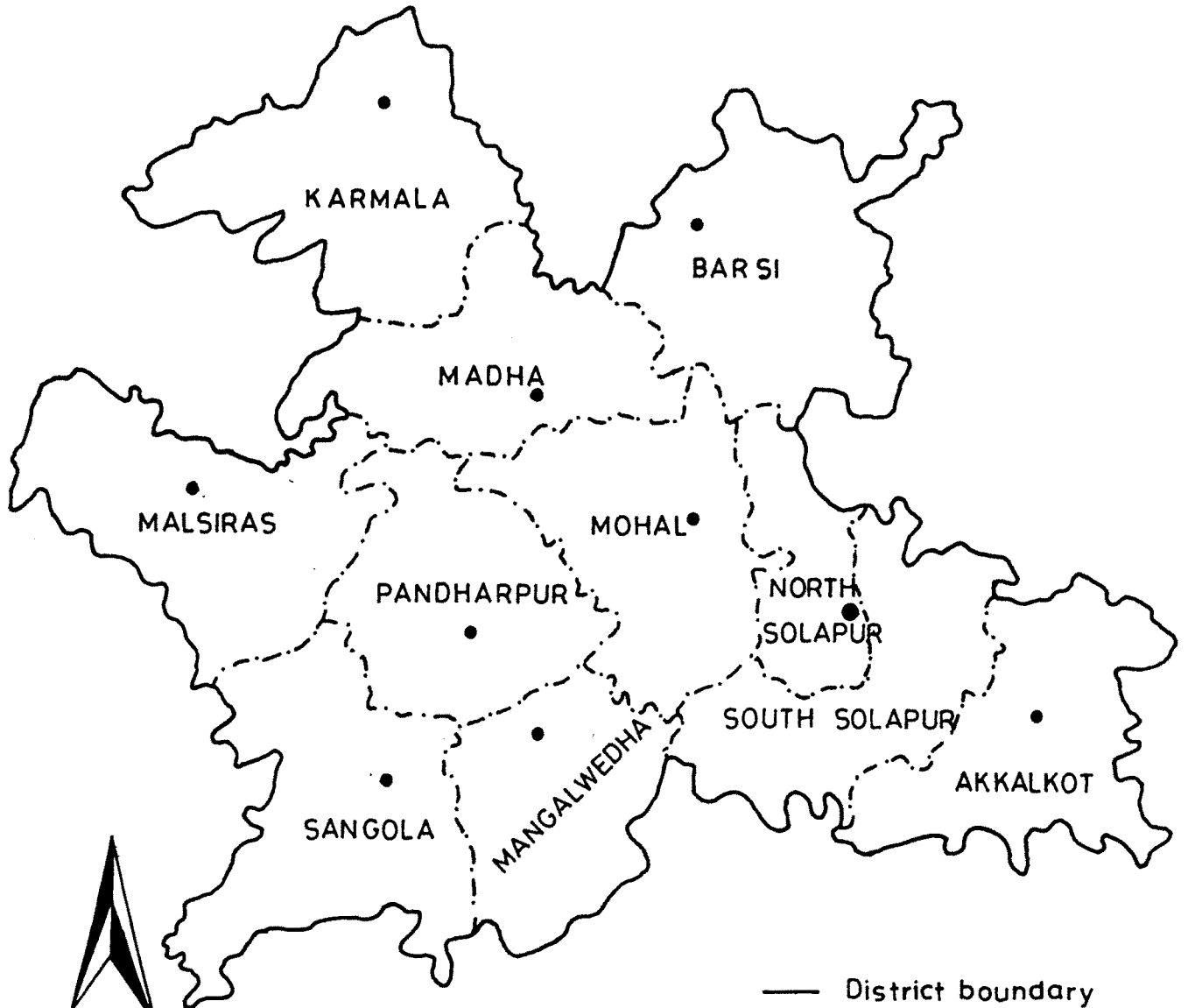


CHAPTER III

SHOLAPUR DISTRICT-AREA, LOCATION AND POPULATION



SOLAPUR DISTRICT



— District boundary
- - - Taluka boundary

CHAPTER - III**SHOLAPUR DISTRICT-AREA AND LOCATION****LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES:**

Area of Sholapur district lies between latitudes 17° degrees to 19° degrees and longitudes 75° degrees to 77° degrees on the south-east border of Maharashtra. It is surrounded by Mysore State on the South-east, by Sangli district and Mysore State on the South by Satara district on the West, by Poona and Ahmednagar districts on the North-west by Osmanabad district on the North and North-East. Actually a portion of this district (mostly of Barshi taluka in the North-east) is hemmed by Osmanabad district.

District head quarters is the Sholapur city. This is at a distance of 283 miles from the State Headquarters (Bombay), on the main rail-link of Central railway connecting Bombay and Madras.

The shape of the district resembles applying eagle. By expanse the distance between the South-North and the East-west are more or less even at a bout 100 miles. These distances are also identified by Rail-lins, main line of Central railway, broad-guage connecting Bombay and Madras links South, East and North-west regions. Other line of

Central Railway, narrow-gauge connecting Latur and Miraj, links South-west and North east regions of the district area.

AREA AND TALUKAS:

Area of Sholapur district is 5,812.6 square miles and its proportion as compared with the Maharashtra State area comes to about 5 percent. The same with Poona division area comes to about 20 percent. There are eleven talukas of Sholapur district. Taluka's of North Sholapur, South Sholapur, Mohol, Madha and Pandharpur are situated in the Central region. Taluka's Malsiras, Karmala and Barshi cover-up the portion from East to West in the North part of the district. Taluka's Sangola, Mangalwedha and Akkalkot cover up the portion from East to West in the Southern part of the district. Barshi Taluka is biggest in area (627.8 square miles) while North Sholapur Taluka claims the least area (284.3 square miles).

GENERAL GEOGRAPHY:

1) **Situation:**

The district of Sholapur lies entirely in the Bhima-Sina-Man basins, just before the Bhima river leaves Maharashtra State to enter into Karnatak State. Bounded by $17^{\circ} 10'$ North and $18^{\circ} 32'$ North latitudes and $74^{\circ} 42'$ east

and $76^{\circ} 15'$ east longitudes, the district is fairly well defined to its west as well to its east by the inward-looking scarps of Phaltan range and the Osmanabad plateau, respectively. The adjoining districts are Sangli to its South-west, Satara to its West, Pune to its North-West, Ahmednagar to its North, Bhir and Osmanabad to its East and the Bijapur district in Karnataka State to its South. Though of an irregular shape, the district is roughly squarish 200 Kms. east-west and 150 Kms. North-south. The district has a total area of 15,021 square kilometers and a population of 22,53,840 as per 1971 census which constitute 4.88 percent and 4.47 percent of the State figures respectively.

The district of Sholapur is known after its town headquarters. " Sholapur " is believed to be derived from two words ' Sola ' meaning sixteen and ' pur ' meaning village. The present city of Sholapur is spread over sixteen villages. Recent research work however, shows that the name Sholapur is derived not from the congregation of sixteen villages. It is evident from the inscriptions of Shivayogi Shri Siddeshwar of the time of the Kalachuris of Kalyani that the town was called Sonnalage, which came to be pronounced as Sonnalagi. The town was known as Sonnalagi even upto the time of Yadavas. A Sanskrit inscription dated Shake 1238 after the downfall of the Yadavas found at Kamati in Mohol shows that the town

was known as Sonalipur. One of the inscriptions found in Sholapur fort shows that the town was called Sonalapur while another on the well in the fort shows that it was known as Sandalapur. During the Muslim period, the town came to be known as Sandalapur, the word Sandal meaning Sandal-Wood. It is therefore, most probable that during the course of the time name Sholapur was evolved by dropping ' na ' from the name Sonalapur. Subsequently, the British rulers pronounced Sholapur as Sholapur and hence the present name of the district.

ADMINISTRATIVE EVOLUTION:

The area which now constitutes Sholapur district was originally part of Ahmadnagar, Pune and Satara districts. Karmala was in Ahmednagar district, Mohol in Pune district and Pandharpur, Malshiras and Sangola in the former princely State of Satara. Barshi and Sholapur were frequently changed between the revenue districts of Ahmednagar and Pune. The Sub-Collectorate of Sholapur was within the jurisdiction of Ahmednagar district in 1830 and a new district of Sholapur was carved out in 1836 consisting of the sub-divisions of Sholapur, Barshi, Mohol, Karmala and also Indi, Hippargi and Muddebihal which are presently in the Karnataka State. The district was however, abolished in 1864 and again made a sub-collectorate under Ahmednagar district. In 1869, the Sub-division of Sholapur, Barshi, Mohol, Madha, Karmala,

Pandharpur and Sangola were grouped together to form Sholapur district. In 1875, the Malshiras taluka was added to the district by its transfer from Satara district. Till 1941, there were no other changes in the limits of the district. Consequent to the merger of the former princely States of India, soon after Independence, 2 villages of Jamkhandi, 21 villages of Jath, 13 villages and 1 town of Kurundwad, 13 villages of Miraj Senior, 3 villages of Miraj Junior, 28 villages and one town of Sangli and a part of Akkalkot State were added to this district and 3 new talukas of Mohol, Akkalkot and Mangalwedha were carved out in 1949.

The Sholapur district was split up into two talukas—Sholapur South and Sholapur North in 1949. In 1950, 53 enclave villages were transferred from the former Nizam State of Hyderabad and were included within this district in exchange of 12 enclave villages belonging to this district transferred to Osmanabad and Gulbarga districts, the latter now being included in Karnataka State. At the same time one village from Indi Taluka of Bijapur district was added to Mangalwedha taluka of this district, with the re-organisation of States in 1956, the Sholapur district was included in the larger bilingual Bombay State, and since May 1960, it forms part of the State of Maharashtra. For administrative purposes, the district is presently

divided into 11 talukas. The area, number of inhabited villages, number of deserted villages, number of towns, etc., are shown in the following table.—A—

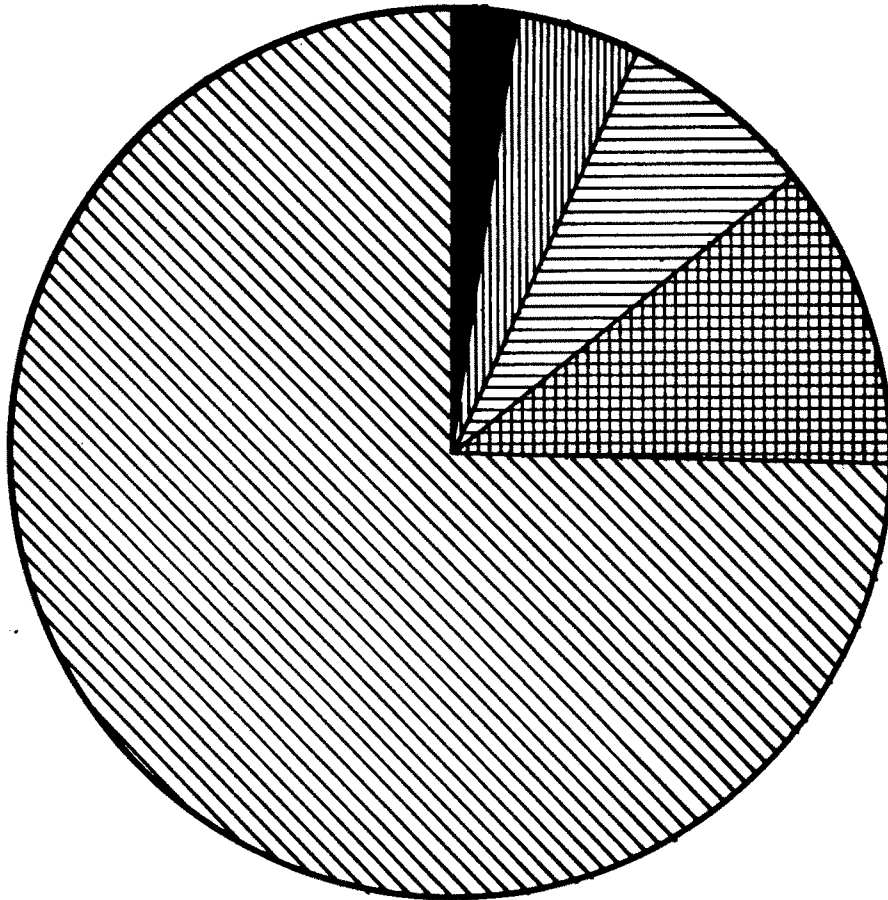
TABLE - A






**Administrative Divisions, Number of Villages and Population
in Sholapur District 1971**

Sr. No.	Taluka	Head Quarters.	Area in Sq. Kms.	Inhabited	Uninhabited	No. of Towns.	Population	Population per Sq. Kms.
1)	Sholapur North.	Sholapur	736.3	43	1	1	4,87,134	662
2)	Sholapur South.	Sholapur	1,195.3	80	-	-	1,33,343	112
3)	Barshi.	Barshi	1,626.0	129	-	1	2,62,716	162
4)	Akkalkot.	Akkalkot	1,390.0	119	2	3	2,06,678	149
5)	Mohol.	Mohol.	1,408.4	88	1	-	1,42,334	101
6)	Mangalvedha.	Mangalvedha.	1,140.9	71	-	1	1,07,823	95
7)	Pandharpur.	Pandharpur	1,303.6	88	-	1	1,87,613	144
8)	Sangola.	Sangola.	1,579.4	68	-	1	1,55,516	98
9)	Malshiras.	Malshiras.	1,522.2	75	-	-	2,26,480	149
10)	Karmala.	Karmala.	1,609.7	96	-	1	1,51,493	94
11)	Madha.	Madha.	1,544.9	96	1	1	1,92,710	125
12)	Sholapur District.	Sholapur	15,021.0	948	5	10	22,5,33,840	150

From the Table - A, it can be inferred that out of 11 Talukas in Sholapur District, the uninhabited Talukas are more than the inhabited Talukas. This shows that there is good scope for development, but as there is a lack of irrigation development, the uninhabited areas are comparatively more.

LAND UTILISATION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT
1977-78



-  Forest
-  Area not available for cultivation
-  Other uncultivated land excluding fallow land
-  Fallow land
-  Net area sown

Source :- Socio-Economic Review & District statistical
Abstract of Solapur District. 1978-79

Fig.1

LAND UTILISATION:

Fig-1 is herein included which speaks of the areas which suffer due to non-cultivation.

The data regarding classification of total area of the district according to various heads of land utilisation not only reflects the extent of development of agricultural activities in the district but also represents the cultivation potential of the area. The total geographical area of the district in 1971-72 was 15,01,069 hectares.

CROPPED AREA:

The percentage of total cropped area to total geographical area in the district was 90.00 in 1971-72, but it varied from taluka to taluka. The gross cropped area of 11,62,112 hectares in 1971-72, comprised 11,16,489 hectares of net area sown and 45,623 hectares of area sown more than once, distributed into food crops and non-food crops. The main food crops of the district are Jawar, Bajri and wheat among cereals, Tur, Math and Gram among pulses, chillies among condiments and spices and fruits and vegetables. The main non-food crops primarily included cotton among fibres, ground-nut, sunflower and sesamum among edible oil-seeds and lin seed among non-edible oil seeds.

FOREST AREA:

The district has a very limited area under forests, mostly arid and scrub forest patches in Barshi and Malshiras talukas. The remaining area is included in Malshiras range. Akkalkot round and apart of Jath round.

From Fig-I and Table B it can be inferred that though there is a lot of land shown as 'Areas sown', due to lack of rainfall the agricultural development has shown no remarkable progress. Of course TABLE 'B' shows the rise in population. The rise in population is due to rise in the industries. But it is important to note that there is no substantial rise in food grains. Sholapur District has a definite crop pattern and there has been no variation in crop pattern.

POPULATION:**The People-Population of Sholapur District:**

According to the 1971 census, the population of Sholapur district is put at 22,53,840 (11,65,927 male and 10,87,913 females) spread over 11 talukas covering an area of 15,021 square miles.

Variation:

From the year 1901, there has been a considerable variation in population. Among the major factors that led to the changes in the population figures, were influenza

epidemic and some changes in the boundary of the district.

The following statistics shows the variation in the population figures since the year 1902: Refer Table-B.

TABLE -B

Year	Population	Decade Variation	Rate of Variation
1901	8,84,101	-	-
1911	9,56,207	+ 72,106	+ 8.16
1921	9,09,249	- 46,959	- 4.91
1931	10,69,524	+ 1,60,276	+ 17.63
1941	12,28,085	+ 1,58,561	+ 14.83
1951	15,05,316	+ 2,77,231	+ 22.57
1961	18,60,119	+ 3,54,803	+ 23.57
1971	22,53,840	+ 3,93,721	+ 21.17

The population of the district increased by only 82 percent in the decade 1901. 11. In the following decade the severe influenza epidemic took a heavy toll of life and the population decreased by nearly 5 percent. Condition improved after 1921 and there had been a distinct change in the trend of variation since then. The population increased by (17.6) percent in 1921-31. (14.8) percent in 1931-41 and (22.6) percent in 1941-51. The higher growth rate in 1921-31 than in 1931-41 may be attributed to the recovery from the influenza epidemic of 1918.

In the two decades (1941-51 and 1951-61) the population increased at very high rates. The rate of growth in 1951-61 was almost of the same order as that of the State. During the last decade, also the district population increased but at a lower rate of (21.17) percent compared to (23.57) during 1961-71. The lower rate of variation during 1961-71, may be attributed to the increasing propoganda of Family Planning Programmes and control of epidemics and other diseases in the district.

The 1951-61 decade variation in the district and each of the Talukas was follows:

TABLE B-1

Sr.No.	Name of the District/Taluka	Percentage decade variation 1951-61
1)	Sholapur District.	... + 23.57
2)	<u>TALUKAS:</u>	
1)	Karmala.	... + 28.23
2)	Barshi.	... + 18.27
3)	Madha.	... + 28.10
4)	Malshiras.	... + 35.57
5)	Pandharpur.	... + 19.73
6)	Mohol.	... + 20.53
7)	North Sholapur.	... + 24.63
8)	Sangola.	... + 23.10
9)	Mangalwedha.	... + 27.37
10)	South Sholapur.	... + 20.32
11)	Nkkalkot.	... + 17.16

Malshiras taluka which had no town in its limits had shown the highest decade rate of growth in the district. This may be due to the growth of sugar factories in the taluka. At the same time the Barshi taluka with textile industry had recorded a low rate.

The net percentage increase since 1901, 1921, 1951 and 1961 for the district and the State was as follows:

TABLE B-2

Sr.No.	Year	Sholapur District	Maharashtra State
1)	1901-1971	+ 154.93	+ 159.97
2)	1921-1961	+ 104.58	+ 89.71
3)	1951-1961	+ 23.57	+ 23.60
4)	1961-1971	+ 21.17	+ 27.45

DENSITY OF POPULATION:

The Statistics of density of population in 1961 and 1971 are given in the following statement.

TABLE B-3

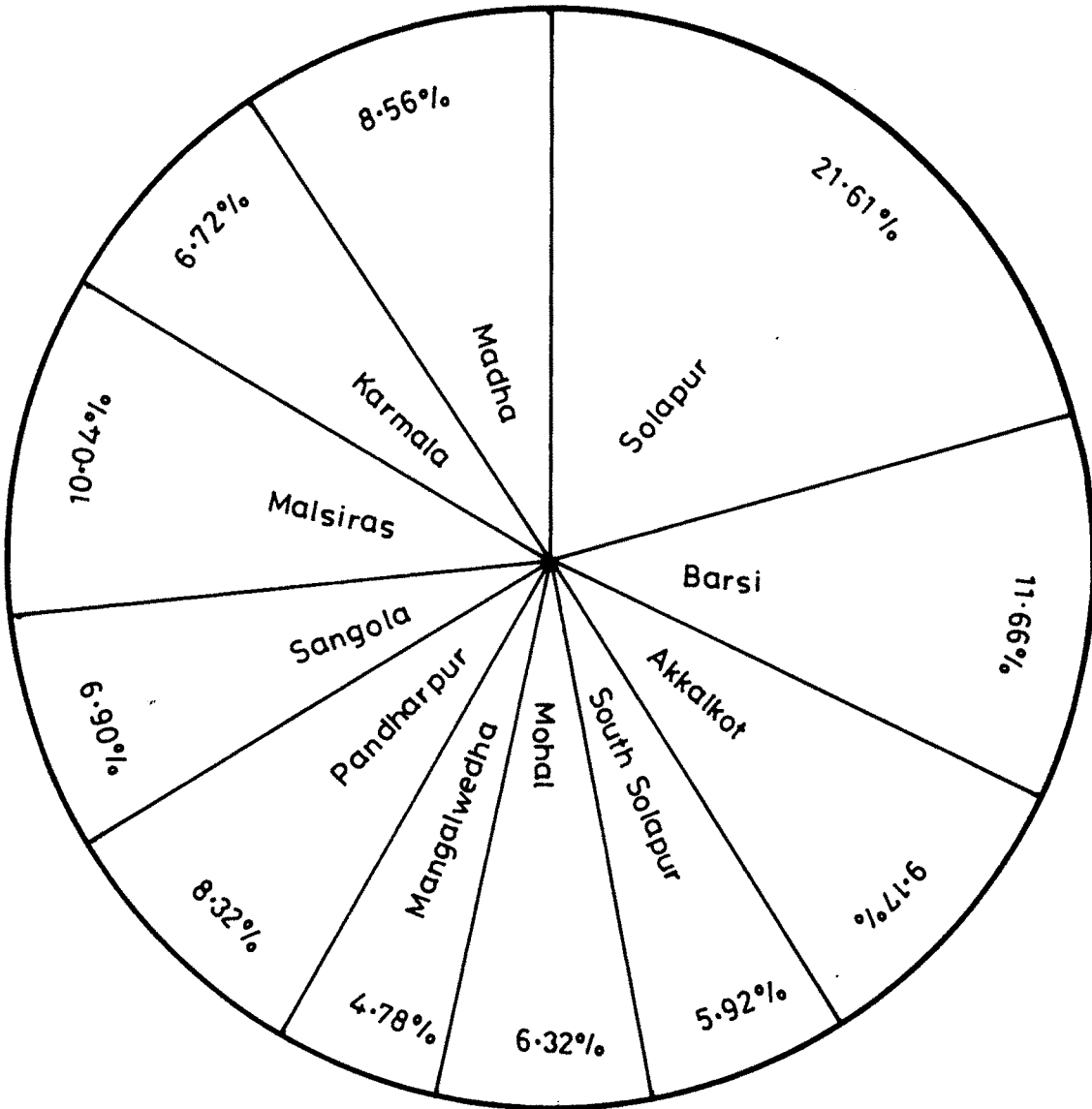
Sr. No.	State/District Taluka	Density per square mile 1961.	Density per square Kilometer 1971	Percentage of district population in 1971
	Maharashtra	334	164	-
	Sholapur District	320	150	100.00
	<u>Talukas:</u>			
1)	Karmala.	207	94	6.72
2)	Barshi.	352	162	11.66
3)	Madha.	262	125	8.55
4)	Malshiras.	293	149	10.5
5)	Pandharpur.	309	114	8.32
6)	Mohol.	224	101	6.32
7)	North Sholapur.	1,427	662	21.61
8)	South Sholapur	244	112	5.92
9)	Sangola.	210	98	6.90
10)	Mangalwedha.	202	95	6.78
11)	Akkalkot.	327	149	9.17

The density of population increased sharply from 156 persons per-square mile in 1921 to 320 persons per-square mile in 1961 and 150 per-square kilometer, in 1971. The district density was, however, always lower than the State average. Within the district the density varies from 662 persons per-square kilometers in Sholapur North taluka to 94 persons per square kilometers in Karmala taluka. These

differences correspond to those of topography and land utilisation and also to the growth of urban areas. The high density in Sholapur North and Barshi talukas is due to rapid development of urban centres like Sholapur city and Barshi town. Mangalwedha, Karmala, Sangola and Mohol talukas are having very low density because of the hilly and mountainous areas in those talukas; and hence remain uninhabited.

According to the 1971 census observations, the population of the district is concentrated more in the areas of relative high density. The Sholapur North taluka forms (21.81) percent of the population of the district Karmala taluka on the other hand, had only (6.72) percent of the district population. Excluding North Sholapur taluka concentration of population is observed in Barshi and Akkalkot talukas, which are also known as commercial talukas.

TOTAL POPULATION OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT AS PER
1971 CENSUS
(TAHSILWISE DISTRIBUTION IN PERCENTAGES)



Source:- Socio-Economic Review & District Statistical
Abstract of Solapur District-1972-73 Page-61(I)

Fig. 2

The urban population of the district of every town at each census and its variation since 1901 are shown in following table.

TABLE B-4

Year	SHOLAPUR DISTRICT			MAHARASHTRA STATE		
	No. of Towns	Rate of Variation	Percentage of urban to Total Population.	No. of Towns	Rate of Variation	Percentage of urban to total population
1901	11	-	20.47	219	-	16.59
1911	11	- 12.12	16.63	232	+ 0.99	15.13
1921	14	+ 41.64	24.77	238	+ 18.72	18.50
1931	14	+ 21.71	25.63	258	+ 15.54	18.60
1941	14	+ 31.44	29.34	266	+ 27.11	21.11
1951	14	+ 30.50	31.24	283	+ 62.42	28.75
1961	10	+ 10.56	27.95	266	+ 21.32	28.22
1971	10	+ 18.60	27.36	259	+ 40.75	31.17

URBAN POPULATION:

The number of towns, the rate of decade variation and the percentage of urban population to total population at each census since 1901 is very important.

If population of those towns is excluded from 1951 urban population, the 1961 urban population would be higher by (20.97) percent over 1951. The net increase of (10.56) percent

was thus due solely to the change of the definition of urban areas and the consequent declassification of four towns.

Sholapur city is the most important urban area and also the most densely populated town in the district and is well known for its cotton textile industries. The population of Sholapur city in 1971 has increased by (429.12) percent over 1901 and (233.13) percent over 1921. As per 1971 census the city alone accounts for more than half of the urban population of the district. Barshi and Pandharpur are the other two important towns in the district. The population of Barshi towns has increased by (157.30) percent over 1901 and (205.02) percent over 1921. For Pandharpur town the growth is (65.52) percent over 1901. For Pandharpur town the growth is (65.52) percent over 1901 and (112.76) percent over 1921.

The areas of Sholapur, Barshi, Akkalkot, Dudhani, and Pandharpur decreased in 1971 compared to the area figures in 1961 due to revised computation. The areas of two towns, Akkalkot and Dudhani decreased heavily in 1971.

RURAL POPULATION:

According to the 1971 census there are 948 villages having a rural population of 16,37,288. The rates of variation in rural population and the percentage of rural

population to total population of the district since 1901 are given below:

SHOLAPUR DISTRICT

TABLE -C

Year	Rate of Variation in Rural Population.	Percentage of Rural Population to Total Population
1901	-	79.53
1911	+ 13.37	83.37
1921	- 14.20	75.23
1931	+ 16.28	74.37
1941	+ 9.10	70.66
1951	+ 19.28	68.76
1961	+ 29.48	72.05
1971	+ 22.16	72.64

The net increase in rural population of the district in 1971 is (132.85) percent over that of 1901 and (139.36) percent over that of 1921.

The percentage of rural population gradually decreased both for the district and the State. Since 1911 only in 1961 and in 1971 it showed an opposite trend. The rates of variation in rural population have never followed any trend. It showed a decrease in 1971 (+ 22.16) compared to 1961 (+ 29.48). The high rate of growth in

rural population of the district in 1961 might be partly due to the declassification of four towns and addition of their 1961 population in the rural population. The urban population had grown faster at the expense of rural population. Thus the rural population increased at a lower rate than the total population. The distribution of population by size of villages for the district and State in the year 1971 is as follows:

TABLE C-1

Population Size	SHOLAPUR DISTRICT		MAHARASHTRA STATE	
	Percentage of number of villages to total number of villages.	Percentage of population to total rural population.	Percentage of No. of villages to total No. of Villages.	Percentage of population to total rural population.
Less than 500	10.34	1.87	39.52	10.68
500-900	29.11	12.91	29.43	21.80
1000-1999	34.49	28.61	20.79	29.40
2000-4999	21.94	37.04	8.65	25.87
5000 & over	4.12	19.57	1.57	12.25

As per 1971 Census, villages with less than 1,000 population account for (39.45) percent of the total number of villages in the district and are inhabited by (14.78) percent of the district rural population. The corresponding figures for the State are (68.95) percent and (32.48) percent

respectively. Villages with more than 1,000 population account for (60.55) percent of total number of villages and are inhabited by (85.22) percent of the district rural population. Thus, more than three fourths of the rural population of the district is concentrated in villages with more than 1,000 population. The State figures for the villages with more than 1,000 population account for (31.06) percent of the total number of villages and (47.52) percent of State rural population. Thus less than of the State population is concentrated in villages with more than, 1,000 population. Villages with more than 5,000 population in the district as also in State are very few in number; which is largely due to constant migration.

Average population per village in 1971 is 1,120 in the district against 930 in Maharashtra. The average population per inhabited village in the district varied from 1,305 in Manghalwedha taluka to 3,020 in Malshiras taluka.

It may be added that the above discussion is based on villages with their administrative boundaries and does not take into account the existence of wadis, Padas or Hamlets within those boundaries; which are dominant factors which cause variation; and migration takes place as labour is demanded.

DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUPS:

The distribution of district population according to age and marital status are very important when we study the population.

Sex Ratios:

The following are the sex ratios (number of females per 1,000 male population) for the district since 1901 for total, Rural and Urban areas.

TABLE-D

Year	Total	Rural	Urban
1901	985	992	958
1911	967	971	947
1921	943	949	924
1931	934	944	908
1941	942	947	929
1951	945	931	932
1961	936	945	914
1971	933	940	914



MIGRATION:

As per 1961 census, (64.32) percent of the population was enumerated at place of birth. This percentage for males was (74.84) and for females (53.08). The difference was due to women getting married outside their places of birth. It is further evidenced by a very high proportion of females among persons born elsewhere in the district. This is also true for those born in other districts of the State as in the migration stream females out numbered males to a great extent. Even among persons from outside the State marriage was one of the major contributory factors in rendering females a pre-ponderance over males. The 1961 census showed the proportions of population by places of birth as follows:

TABLE- E

	Total Population	Place of enumeration	Elsewhere in the District.	Outside district but in Maharash- tra.	Out sid e Maharash- tra.
Persons	18,60,119	11,95,841	4,22,687	1,31,459	1,09,265
Males	9,60,655	7,18,574	1,59,674	49,498	52,451
Females	8,99,464	4,77,267	2,83,013	81,961	56,808
<u>Percentage to Total Population:</u>					
Persons	100.00	64.32	22.73	7.07	5.88
Males	100.00	74.84	14.55	5.15	5.46
Females	100.00	53.08	31.48	9.12	6.32

The percentage of non-workers was lower in the population born at places other than the place of enumeration. The cultivators had a high proportion among those born at the place of enumeration. Agricultural labourers had a higher proportion for those born elsewhere within the district.

(14.64) percent of the males born ~~out~~ side the district were engaged in manufacturing other than household industries. Textile industry in Sholapur city must be responsible for this high percentage, as it attracts large number of migrants for employment so also Barshi town.

HOUSING:

As per 1971 census, there are 4,83,510 census houses of all description in the district of these 3,48,610 are in rural areas and 1,34,900 in the urban areas of the district. Of the total 39,435 census houses were found vacant at the time of listing of which 30,220 were in rural areas and 9,215 in the urban areas of the district.

The district percentage share of population, census houses and houses used as residences is as follows:

TABLE- I

	Percentage of Population.	Percentage of Census Houses.	Percentage of Houses used as residences.
Maharashtra	100.00	100.00	100.00
Sholapur District	4.47	7.07	4.32

SCHEDULED CASTES:

Although 24 castes are notified as the Scheduled Castes in district, on 12 (including Mang Garudi) are reported in 1971. Out of these, the largest number of Maharas.

The second predominant, group is of Mangs and the third of Chambhars. The remaining Scheduled Castes had together 3,123 population which accounted for less than (0.2) percent of the total population of the district.

The comparative position of the Scheduled Castes population in 1951, 1961, and 1971 in the district is as follows:

TABLE - G

All Scheduled Castes	<u>PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL POPULATION</u>		
	Total Area	Rural Area	Urban Area
1951	15.36	17.55	10.55
1961	12.87	14.87	7.62
1971	14.21	16.04	9.36

As per 1971 census (21.8) percent of the total Scheduled Castes population of the district are literate and educated, of whom (15.7) percent are from rural areas and the remaining (6.1) percent from urban areas.

SCHEDULED TRIBES:

Twelve Scheduled Tribes out of 19 notified tribes of the district are reported in the 1971 census. Their total population, however, is only 8,608 or (0.29) percent of the total Scheduled Tribes population of the State and accounts for (0.38) percent of the total population of the district. Pardhi with 5,643 persons is the largest Scheduled Tribe in the district. They are mostly found in the talukas of Barghi, South and North Sholapur and Kamala. Koli Dhors come mostly from urban areas of the district.

Out of the total Scheduled Tribes population as per 1971 census the literate and educated persons account for (15.8) percent of which (10.79) percent are from rural areas and the remaining (5.05) percent are from urban areas.

LANGUAGE:

The following ^H table shows the population by language in the district. Percentage distribution of language in rural and urban areas in 1961 was as follows:

TABLE - H

Sr. No.	Language	Percentage to Total Population.			Percentage of Each Language in	
		Total	Rural	Urban	Rural Areas	Urban Areas
1)	Banjari	0.39	0.52	0.07	95.00	5.00
2)	Gujarati	0.62	0.45	1.06	51.99	48.01
3)	Hindi	1.15	0.39	3.08	24.79	75.21
4)	Kaikadi	0.10	0.07	00.18	49.13	50.87
5)	Kannada	11.45	11.17	12.18	70.27	29.73
6)	Marathi	71.46	80.13	49.10	80.73	19.21
7)	Tamil	0.09	0.01	0.29	11.72	88.28
8)	Telugu	5.67	1.23	17.12	16.62	84.38
9)	Urdu	8.82	5.93	16.30	48.40	51.60
10)	Others.	0.25	0.10	0.62	30.16	69.84
	All Languages	100.00	100.00	100.00	72.05	27.95

Marathi is the principal language and is the mother tongue of (71.5) percent of the population. In the rural areas Marathi speakers account for (90.1) percent of the population. They constitute (49.1) percent of the population in urban areas. Kannada has the second largest number of speakers. It forms (11.5) percent of the total population in the district. It is spoken more in urban areas where its speakers form, as much as (12.2) percent against (11.2) percent for rural areas. Urdu has the third largest number

speakers. It forms (8.8) percent of the total population of the district. It is spoken more in urban areas where its speakers form as much as (16.3) percent against (5.9) percent for rural areas. The speakers of Banjari language are concentrated in rural areas and so also Gujarati speakers are mostly concentrated in urban areas. Kalkadi speakers are almost evenly distributed in rural and urban areas. The comparative position of the languages in 1901, 1951 and 1961 is as follows:

TABLE H-1

Sr. No.	Language	Percentage to Total Population in		
		1901	1951	1961
1)	Banjari	-	-	0.39
2)	Gujarati	0.52	0.72	0.62
3)	Hindi	7.70	1.39	1.15
4)	Kalkadi	-	-	0.10
5)	Kannada	7.13	12.53	11.45
6)	Marathi	81.98	72.45	71.46
7)	Tamil	0.02	0.20	0.09
8)	Telugu	2.37	4.34	5.67
9)	Urdu	-	8.17	8.82
10)	Others	0.28	0.20	0.25
	All Languages	100.00	100.00	100.00

RELIGIONS

The population by religion in the district and the comparative position of the religions in the district in 1901, 1961 and 1971 is as follows:

TABLE - I

Sr. No.	Religion	Percentage to Total Population in		
		1901	1961	1971
1)	Buddhists.	-	3.31	1.76
2)	Christians.	0.24	0.30	0.29
3)	Hindus.	90.24	86.42	87.65
4)	Jains	1.12	0.85	0.93
5)	Muslims.	8.17	9.10	9.33
6)	Others.	0.05	0.02	0.04
	All Religion.	100.00	100.00	100.00

The proportion of Muslims, has increased over the last seventy years. The proportion of Jains has decreased during the period of 1901-1961 but increased in 1971. The percentage of Hindus has gone down from (90.42) percent in 1901 to (86.44) percent in 1961, because some persons belonging to Hindu Scheduled Castes returned their religion as Buddhists or Nav Baudhas but again increased in 1971 to (87.65.) The combined proportion for Hindus and Buddhists has decreased than that in 1901. Most significant changes are the

reporting of (3.31) percent of the population as Buddhists in 1961 which again decreased in 1971 and the increase in Muslims by nearly one percent. The proportions of Hindus and of Muslims to the district population are larger in Sholapur district (87.65 & 9.33) than in the State (81.94 and 8.40 respectively). The percentage of people following other than these two religions are higher in the State than in the district.

Thus in this chapter an effort is made to assess the total picture of Sholapur District, with essential charts and maps etc., This chapter has relied much on the census report of 1971. This chapter helps to develop the essential background to know the nature of Sholapur District.