

Chapter - 6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The present study deals with an analysis of population growth of Patan taluka on the basis of the statistical data available mainly from the census reports supplemented by data from official records at Satara district and Patan taluka levels. It is a study of post-Independence period.

6.2 Eventhough population growth may, at times and in special circumstances, promote economic development of a country, the experience with most of the developing countries is that unrestrained and rapid population growth has by and large slowed down the pace of their economic development. India is experiencing the problem of what is generally termed the population explosion. It is a national problem and no part of the country is an exception.

6.3 Realising the threat of fast growing population, India emerged as the first country in the world to adopt a national population policy and employ governmental machinery for implementation of the accepted programmes. Patan taluka, as a small administrative unit of the country, executed the programme within its jurisdiction in the best possible manner.

6.4 Patan taluka, situated among the ranges of the Sahyadris in Satara district is very much undeveloped though the introduction of primary, secondary and collegiate educational institutions, large number of cooperative

organisations, a few industrial unit based on local resources and extension of health facilities has helped to change the face of the taluka in the post-Independence period. The taluka is fortunate in having good road links with important places within and without.

6.5 Similar to national trend Patan also experienced increase in its population through decades as revealed by the census reports. However, a decreasing trend is visible. Moreover, the percentage increase in its population at every census year was the least among all the talukas of Satara district. This certainly is a welcome feature of the population growth of Patan taluka.

6.6 The population of Patan taluka is mostly rural. Since 1971 about 6 percent of the taluka population is identified as urban due to adoption of a modified formula for an urban area. It appears that the rural-urban division of all the talukas in Satara district remained almost unchanged over three decades.

6.7 As elsewhere, the density of population of Patan taluka also increased because of natural increase in its population. Average size of family also increased. But at the same time the number of households per residential unit decreased indicating thereby the availability of a large number of new housing units to the people. Density of Patan taluka was less than the district. Another noticeable feature was that density of population of Patan taluka grew at a

speed lesser than industrial-commercial talukas.

6.8 All the while the composition of population of Patan taluka has exhibited female population outnumbering male population on account of a considerable out-migration of particularly working male population to the industrial belts like Pune-Bombay-Thane. In fact, Satara district as a whole is characteristic with this phenomenon and is second to the erstwhile Ratnagiri district. Patan taluka remained among the first three talukas in having excess female population.

6.9 Literacy percentage in the taluka on the whole increased but female literacy increased much faster than male literacy. With all this the ratio of male to female literacy in 1981 was 2:1. Backwardness of Patan taluka can in this context be perceived by the fact that literacy percentage of Patan was almost the lowest in satara district.

6.10 Occupational structure of the taluka also reveals the continuing backwardness of the taluka. More than four-fifths of the taluka population depended on primary activities for its bread. In the comity of the talukas Patan was in the lowest group. Structural transformation of Patan's economy is thus still out of sight.

6.11 Percentage of labour force in total population in the taluka declined sharply due to out-migration of working population from the taluka. This was experienced also by the district as a whole.

6.12 Male-female composition of the work force changed phenomenally so as to have more percentage of males than females. This trend of Patan was observed in case of all the other talukas except Jaoli.

6.13 For making decisive observation regarding the trend in age-structure of the taluka population, statistically details for 1971 and 1981 censuses were not available from any of the official sources and hence remark based on 1961 census data alone had to be passed. Accordingly, it appears that nearly 50 percent population is in working group and is supporting the other 50 percent population comprising children below 14 years and persons above 60 years.

6.14 As per national policy Patan taluka appears to have made efforts to implement the population programme. It has the necessary official administrative infra-structure as per the norms prescribed. The number of primary health centres increased from 2 in 1961 to 12 in 1985. More doctors and nurses were at the service of the people. Therefore, better medical and health facilities were provided to the people, though they were not fairly wide-spread within the taluka.

6.15 Besides regularly treating the patients in the health centres and dispensaries, as a crucial birth control programme the taluka was quite active in undertaking sterilisation and IUDs activities. Patan taluka ranked fourth and third respectively in these activities in Satara district.

6.16 As regards the popular response to the family welfare programme, inference can be based on the statistical details pertaining to the percentage decadal increase in population and the achievements in implementation of birth control programme. Diminishing percentage of population growth and large number of sterilisations and IUDs are strong indicators of favourable response of the people to the programmes. The achievements have to be viewed on the background of the lowest literacy percentage and the greatest dependance of population on primary activities.

6.17 On the whole, it can be observed from the entire analysis that though Patan taluka has been making efforts to change for better living and though in certain respects the growth of population has revealed certain welcome features, considerable efforts have to be made in the years to come to bring about a structural transformation in the economy of the taluka. Implementation of the present population programme more extensively and effectively would be conducive to this process.