

CHAPTER - 1

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The study of population of any region on this earth involves an understanding of the quantity and quality of its people. Details regarding vital statistics of the people throw much light on the sex composition, age-structure, birth and death rates, infant mortality, fertility rate, net reproduction rate, labour supply and its occupational distribution, etc. Demographic study reveals invaluable and multi-dimensional information about the characteristics of the country's population. It serves as a foundation for socio-economic planning of the region. An investigation into the population of a region has a great sociological and economic significance because of the relatedness of the population not only with the structure of society but also with its social and economic development. Population growth is a long-term phenomenon and hence details of population gleaned over regular intervals through mechanisms like census bring forth the trends in various respects which can well serve as guide for policy makers, social scientists and demographers. Population projections for future points of time estimated on the strength of observed trends provide an important feed back particularly to the national planning authorities. The projections open a wide vista of the future situation of the population of the

region and assist the planners in preparing to meet the expected situation so as to continue unabated the process of social and economic development.

India stands second in the world next to China in the context of the quantity of people. This, however, need not be a matter of pride for anybody in the country. True that large population can be treated as capital which can be fruitfully used in the country's endeavours of economic upliftment. But for India it has posed a number of problems mainly because of high rate of population growth which is about 2.5 percent per annum. The phenomenon is swelling the country's population at an unprecedented rate more often defeating its efforts of rapid economic development. This is a cause of concern for all.

Population explosion being experienced for a couple of decades in the past, especially after the 'Year of Great Divide' (1921) invited the attention of demographers and social scientists to cull as much information of the country's population as possible and probe the issue from different angles. Investigations at micro as well as macro levels were undertaken in this context by using the census data as also by generating additional primary data through sample surveys. The wealth of information provided by census reports was juxtaposed to throw more light on the structure and behaviour of population. The present study is one more effort of this kind.

1.1 THE UNIVERSE

This study pertains to Patan taluka in Satara district of Maharashtra State. It is one of the 11 talukas in Satara district located in the ranges of Sahyadri and hence is relatively backward. Demographic study of this taluka is undertaken as a micro-study because of the author's inhabitation at the taluka headquarters for many years and familiarity with the environment and the people.

1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Rapid population growth is India's national problem. Every state is facing it in more or less proportion and so must be every smaller territorial division of the state like the district, the taluka and the town or village. Eventhough the broad problem is similar at all levels, certainly every region exhibits some peculiarities of its own population as regards structure and growth. Thus arise some distinct features of the population of every region. Micro-level demographic studies help in highlighting such distinctions and peculiarities and gauge the impact of population programmes implemented over years in such regions. With this in mind, Patan taluka is selected for a case study.

Specific objectives of the study are as under :

- (a) to study the trend in the growth of population;
- (b) to bring out the changes, if any, in the composition and structure of population with special reference to density, rural-urban division, sex composition, age structure, labour force, occupational structure and literacy;

- (c) to compare the trends in respect of Patan taluka with the rest of the talukas in the district and with Satara district as a whole and
- (d) to review the implementation of the population programmes in Patan taluka.

1.3 TIME SPAN

The analysis pertains to a period of three decades covering 1951-81. Wherever adequate census data is available, information of 1951 Census is used as basic and data of the subsequent censuses is put in juxtaposition. In short, the study pertains to the post-Independence period beginning with 1951 census.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The dissertation is based entirely on the secondary data culled from various government publications and official records. No primary data has been generated. Census data is quite comprehensive, authentic and all-pervasive. Hence by using the census data mainly attempt has been made to throw light on the various aspects of the vital statistics so as to establish definite conclusions about the growth of population of Patan taluka.

Principal data source is the Census Reports of 1951 to 1981 of the Government of India. Statistics relevant to Satara district and all its talukas is taken out from these reports. Statistical Abstracts of Satara District are used as supplementary. In addition, official records of the District Statistical Office, District Health

Department and Zilla Parishad, Satara District, Tahasildar Office, Panchayat Samiti and Primary Health Centre, Patan and Primary Health Centre, Daebewadi are scanned through. Besides this, personal discussions with the officials of these institutions at taluka and district level were carried on especially in the context of implementation of population programmes.

1.5 SCHEME OF STUDY

The study is spread over six chapters. The opening chapter introduces the research framework with reference to the universe of study, objectives, time-span, methodology and the gist of the chapters.

Second chapter entitled "Population vis-a-vis economic development" provides an analytical framework by briefly discussing the effects of population growth on economic development and vice versa with special reference to India.

"Socio-economic set-up of Patan taluka" forms the theme of the third chapter. It introduces salient features of Patan taluka to enable the reader to understand its demographic features in proper perspective.

A detailed study of the population of Patan taluka forms the content of the extensive fourth chapter entitled "Trends in the growth of population of Patan taluka." The ~~xxx~~ analysis takes into account quantity,

density, rural-urban division, sex composition, age structure, labour force, occupational structure and literacy of the taluka population. Trends observed in case of Patan taluka are compared with those of other talukas and the district.

Fifth chapter is on "Population programme." It brings out the activities undertaken in Patan taluka as per the national policies and programmes and their outcome. The contents of the chapter refer to the administrative set-up, financial provisions, work of the public health centres, medical facilities to the people and family welfare programmes.

Last chapter is in the nature of summary and conclusions.