CHAPTER - I

-:- INTRODUCTION -:-

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1.1 NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY :

This study is concerned with the explanation of the distribution of population and associated socio-economic facilities in Khanapur taluka of Sangli district. Population is an important factor and it plays a vital role in country's economic development. Since India's population has been increasing at an alarming rate of almost 2.5 percent per annum, and it has an effect on socio-economic development in the country. There is thus more need for socio-economic facilities in India. The total population viz. rural and urban is taken into consideration for studying the spatial distribution and the growth rates during the period 1961 to 1981. For the present study six socio-economic facilities viz. medical, education, post and telegraph, electricity, transport and bank are considered. There are many other facilities but it is felt that the above six facilities are more basic for the people. In the present study, facility is taken as an absence of difficulty in the daily life of the people.

"The socio-economic facilities have assumed special significance with growing emphasis on improving the quality of life at all levels; particularly in rural ares," (Singh and Rai,1987). The rural development concerns not only man's material needs, but also the improvement of the social conditions of his life. The rural prosperity is regarded as a

comprehensive development of the economic and social facilities of a specified geographical area. " Development is not just economic growth but it is growth plus change in standard of living," (Bhende and Kanitkar,1978).

This type of study can be helpful to planners and administrators for future planning and development of socio-economic facilities in administrative unit. It is in this context that the present study is undertaken to analyse the association between population and socio-economic facilities in Khanapur taluka of Sangli district.

1.2 AREA UNDER STUDY :

a) Choice of Area :

The Khanapur taluka of Sangli district is selected as an area for present investigation. The choice of the area under study is a result of many considerations. The following are some of them, which motivated me to undertake this taluka for study.

i) First of all it is a home region and the researcher is well known to the changing socio-economic conditions which have taken place in the recent past.

ii) Khanapur taluka in the north central part of the district is the drought prone area.

iii) The taluka except with one urban centre, i.e. Vita is rural and agriculture is the main occupation of the people.

iv) This taluka is economically backward and per capita income is low.

v) As far as I know, there is no geographical study dealing with population and socio-economic facilities in Sangli district as yet undertaken.

Hence, Khanapur taluka of the district is selected for the present study.

b) Location :

The study area lies between 17°5' to 17°25' North latitude and 74°20' to 74°50' East longitude (Fig.1.1). The Khanapur taluka has a total geographical area of 1326 sq.kms with 97 villages and one urban centre. The taluka supports population of 1,93,877 in 1981 census. The population density of the taluka is 146.93 persons per sq.km. It is bounded by Khatav taluka in North, Tasgaon taluka in South, Atpadi in East and Karad taluka in West.

c) Relief, Climate and Soil :

The geographical location of the Khanapur taluka is marked by contrasting physical characteristics in its different parts. The average height from mean sea level is 750 metres. The eastern part is more hilly as compared to the western part.

The climatic conditions are varied. In the eastern part rainfall is low and temperature is high but in western part the rainfall is relatively high. Most of the rainfall

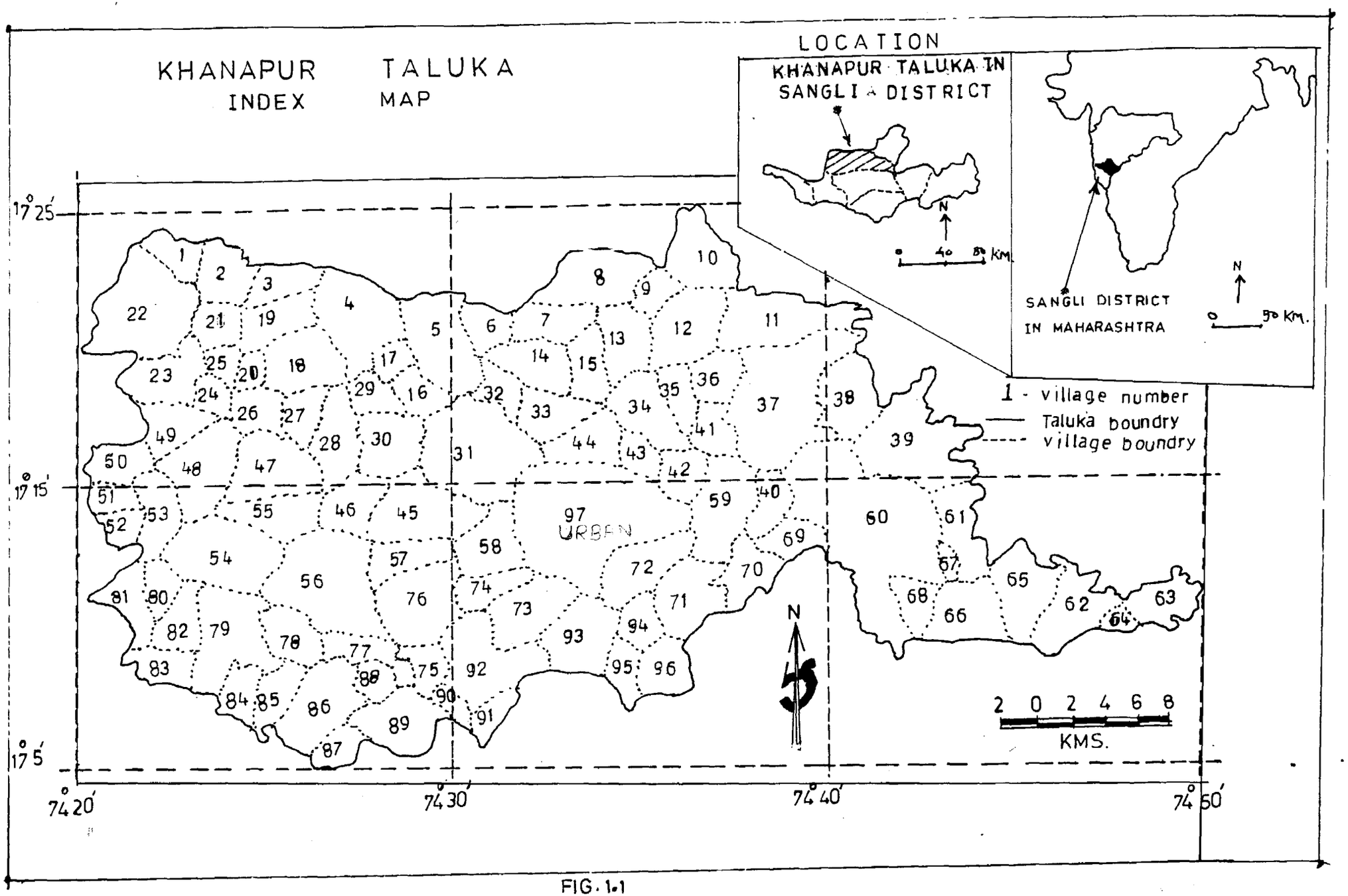

KHANAPUR TALUKA
INDEX MAP
LOCATION
KHANAPUR TALUKA IN SANGLI DISTRICT
SANGLI DISTRICT IN MAHARASHTRA
N
40 80 KM.
50 KM.
1 - village number
Taluka boundry
village boundry
97 URBAN
17°25'
17°15'
17°5'
74°20'
74°30'
74°40'
74°50'
2 0 2 4 6 8
KMS.

FIG. 1.1

in the study region (85%) is received during the south-west monsoon season. Premonsoon and post-monsoon rainfall is very low. Soil types differ from area to area. But as the region is a part of Deccan plateau, the major part of the taluka is covered by black cotton soil or regur (Fig.1.2).

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The problem is directly linked with the study of selected socio-economic facilities and distribution of population. Therefore, the specific objectives of the study are as under :-

i) To study the growth rate and distribution of population in Khanapur taluka.

ii) To identify the spatial patterns of socio-economic facilities in the region.

iii) To examine the association between population and socio-economic facilities and to demarcate the areas having good prevelance of any facility and deficiency of other.

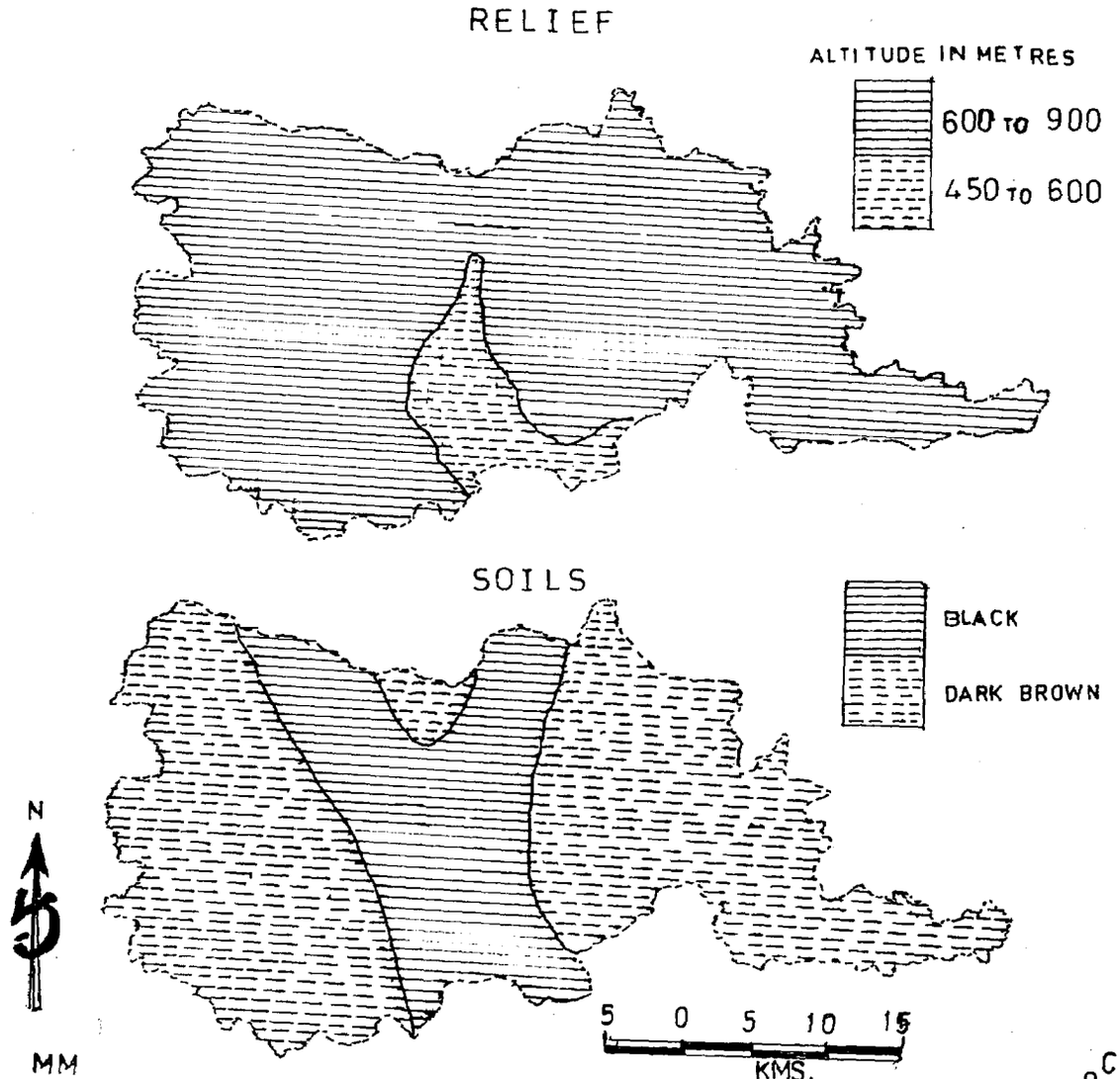
1.4 HYPOTHESIS :

In order to fulfil the above objectives the following hypothesis have been formulated.

i) Distribution and growth rate of population are varied from village to village in the study area.

ii) Socio-economic facilities are not evenly distributed all over the area under study.

KHANAPUR TALUKA



FIG·1.2

iii) Socio-economic facilities do not go hand in hand with population growth in the taluka.

1.5 DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY :

To acheive the above objectives and to test the hypothesis the data for the selected socio-economic facilities are collected from both the primary and secondary sources. Secondary data are obtained from the census handbook of the district, Socio-Economic Review and District Statastical Abstracts and many other government records. Primary data essential for the present study are gathered through the intensive fieldwork.

Different cartographic and statastical techniques are used in this study. Choropleth technique is mainly used for presentation of data. The 'weightage score method' given by Betal (1984) is used for showing the distribution of socio-economic facilities. Concentration Index Value for selected facilities is computed. The distribution of socio-economic facilities is shown by Symbolic Method. Simple Correlation technique is used for analysing the association between the population, settlement and socio-economic facilities. For demarcating the areas of sufficiency and deficiency of facilities, the population threshhold for a particular function is decided. The threshhold population is estimated by considering the lowest unit of population where that function appears and by calculating the simple median value.

1.6 REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE :

In the 20th century many scholars have created the interest in the study of distribution and growth in population. The geographical studies on population are plenty in India and abroad. The socio-economic development study is also the part of population study, but the studies with special emphasis on association between population and socio-economic facilities are comparatively few. Mention may, however be made of some of the studies by Indian scholars in this regard.

Betal H.R. (1984), studied the ' Impact of socio-economic facilities on the distribution of population in Medinipur District.' In his study he observed that, there are some parts where all the facilities are surplus than actually needed and the other parts of the district are poorly served by the facilities. In eastern police stations, there is more concentration of population but facilities are less. Whereas, western police stations are well served by the facilities.

Banerjee S. and Chakrabarti A. (1978) studied the ' Spatial patterns of socio-economic characteristics in Calcutta metropolitan district.' In their study they observed that spatial patterns of socio-economic characteristics in Calcutta metropolitan district in (1961) were mainly the products of Calcutta's influence as well as the impact of Hooghly industrial belt which were further strengthened by the routeways.

Gill M.S. (1980) studied the ' Distribution and density of rural population in Hissar district, Haryana 1971.' In his study he compared the Hissar district with the rest of Haryana and observed the areas of contrasts in density of population. High density is associated with intensity of irrigation facilities, proximity to urban centres, and main transport arteries. On the other hand low density is characteristic feature of drought prone, bagar areas as well as area of very recent settlement.

Rao D.S. and Reddy N.B.K. (1982) studied the ' Spatial variation of social amenities within the city region of Andhra Pradesh.' In this study they observed that cities are better served than rural areas by social amenities. The present study shows the fact that there is no definite relationship between the population size of a city and the standard of social-amenities. There seems to be a strong positive relationship between a city and it's hinterland with respect to the level of social amenities.

Singh D.N. and Rai S.C. (1987) studied the ' Spatial organization of socio-economic facilities in Kopaganj Block (Azamgarh District U.P.) - An appraisal of existing structure.' In their study they suggested that the desired spatial planning can be achieved only through provision of a balanced socio-economic spatial organization system. Some facilities like primary schools are available in considerable number, while

others like fertilizer distribution centres, veternary hospitals/dispensary and banking etc. are far short of minimum requirement. In between there are facilities such as high-school, intermediate colleges and rural health centres which need increase in their numbers.

Among the non-geographic works mention must be made of the works done by Jugale V.B. (1983), Kashalikar V.M. (1983), Dhere B.T. (1984), Upadhye-Chavan V.D. (1984), Zulzule G.S. (1985), Kakade V.B. (1986) and Shinde M.P. (1985).

1.7 CHAPTER OUTLINE :

The present study entitled 'Distribution of population and socio-economic facilities in Khanapur taluka of Sangli district'is divided into five chapters.

In the first chapter the problem of study, it's significance, regional profile, objectives, hypothesis, sources of data, methodology, review of literature and outline of the work is presented. In the second chapter the distribution and growth rate of population is attempted. Third chapter is concerned with the distribution of selected socio-economic facilities in the study area. In fourth chapter the association between socio-economic facilities and population in the study area is analysed. The conclusions are given in chapter five. The relevant references are given at the end of each chapter and general bibliography is listed in the last.

REFERENCES

1. Betal, H.R. (1984) : Impact of socio-economic facilities on distribution of population in Medinapur District. Geographical Review of India, Vol.46, No.1, pp.75.81.

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3. Singh, D.N. and Rai, S.C. (1987) : Spatial organization of socio-economic facilities in Kopoganj Block. The National Geographical Journal of India, Vol.33, No.1, pp.68-79.