CHAPTER - VI

-:- **C O N C L U S I O N** -:-

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C O N C L U S I O N

The generative character of towns grows and exerts a favourable influence on economic development of the adjoining areas on the other hand the parasitic character, either do not exerts any influence on the growth of towns or on the economic development of the area. In India small and medium size towns have been existing for a very long time and most of them have developed either administrative towns, market towns or cultural centres.

The spatial distribution of small and medium size towns in South Maharashtra indicates uneven distribution in the geographical space. This distribution is influenced by several factors. More dominance of small and medium size towns is observed in Konkan and Kolhapur districts of the study region. It is observed that out of the total urban population of the study area, small and medium size towns account for 30.9% of the total urban population of which nearly 27.3% population is covered by medium size towns and only 0.6% population is found in small towns of the area.

The regional pattern of class order distribution of towns indicates that Satara and Konkan districts are dominated by lower size order towns. Kolhapur and Sangli districts are dominated by class III and class IV towns and Solapur district has all classes of towns excepting class VI only.

In respect of degree of urbanization it is observed that, only four talukas namely Karvir, Miraj, Mahabaleshwar and North

Solapur show high degree of urbanization and four talukas namely,
Satara, Pandharpur, Barsi and Hatkanangale indicate moderate
degree of urbanization. There are 27 talukas where, the degree
of urbanization is poor.

The spatial pattern of small and medium size town distri-
bution in the different physiographic regions of the study area
indicates a starkcontrast. South Konkan and the Krishna Valley
region indicates near to uniform distribution of small and medium
size towns. On the other hand Random distribution is observed
in upland hilly region and upper Bhima basin. There is only one
region, dry plateau region where the distribution is uniform.
The degree of randomness for the entire South Maharashtra is
1.01 which indicates the random distribution. The region has
seven urban concentration groups in which the largest group is
found in Upper Krishna Valley.

The levels of development and the distribution of small
and medium size towns indicate close relationship. The areas
having higher index of development indicate more concentration
of small and medium size towns as compared to poorly developed
areas. Further it is observed that urban settlements are widely
spaced and relatively small in size are found in the areas with
poor level of development and lower density of population. In
better developed areas they are closely spaced.

The functional association of towns indicates that in
1961 and 1971 there is a considerable change in the shift of

occupation in most of the towns which are growing rapidly. On the other hand the towns with low rate of growth indicate very little change in their occupational shift. The census classification of occupation categories for the year 1981 cannot be compared with the occupational classification of previous census periods and hence the comparison is impossible.

However, we the individual analysis of 1981 data indicates that most of the towns have gained population in the tertiary sector as compared to primary and secondary sectors of occupational groups.

In order to find out whether the zone of influence of towns has any relevance with their growing or stagnant nature, the zone of influence of towns has been calculated for two different periods. The study reveals that, in many cases inspite of high population growth the towns coluld not increase their zone of influence because in proportion to growth in population of towns, the overall increase in the urban population in a region is also observed. Very few towns show increase in their zone of influence. This character of town and its analysis clearly indicates that the towns showing very little change or positive change in their zone of influence can be considered growing towns. There are few towns in the study region, which indicates decrease in their sphere of influence. Most of the towns showing negative change in the zone of influence are from Ratnagiri district.

It is normally observed that small and medium size towns act as a link between the backward rural areas and developed prosperous urban centres. Such small and medium towns show sometime very slow growth and sometime highly accelerated growth. This very nature of growth of small and medium size towns is related to the entire economic structure of the region. The generative towns play important role in influencing the economic development of areas. They indicate considerable growth in their population size and in their functional establishments. Their linkage with the surrounding areas also increases. On the other hand parasitic nature of towns indicate very slow growth of population, their functional growth is also retarded. The study of Generative and Parasitic nature of towns in the study area is based on few indices which are related to the generative and parasitic nature of town growth, they include i) population growth of town ii) growth rate of population engaged in secondary and tertiary activity iii) growth of banking activity iv) growth of industrial electric connections v) growth of commercial electric connections and vi) growth in municipal taxes.

The selected indicators are important and their growth or decline clearly reflects on the generative and parasitic nature of towns. The analysis of the small and medium towns in the study area shows that, out of the total 43 small and medium towns in the study area, 20 towns are parasitic in nature, of these 20 towns eight towns are from Konkan region and five towns are from Solapur district. These two areas are comparatively

back in respect of agriculture and industrial development. Remaining parasitic towns are found in hilly or dry zones of the study area. On the whole the observation clearly indicates that economically poor areas are dominated by parasitic towns. Most of the small towns found in isolation, show slow growth. Slow growth of towns is dominately found for most of the medium size towns of the region.

Rapid growth with high generative capacity is observed for 13 towns in the study area. Most of these towns are either administrative headquarters or important market centres. These towns are growing rapidly and gaining additional functional capacity. Slow generative towns of the study area can also grow at a faster rate, if the economic potentials of these towns are exploited in the proper perspective.