CHAPTER - VI

C O N C L U S I O N

It will be repetitive to list all the empirical findings of the study in this concluding chapter. Therefore, here is an attempt to list some of the major conclusions of the study in a broader frame.

Weekly market centres, being the focal points of economic, social, cultural, administrative and other activities in peasant society, play a very significant role in accelerating the pace of socio-economic development in rural landscape. (Market centres have been looked upon as service centres and the centres of diffusion.) These centres are interpreted as the basic building blocks of a much more complex hierarchy of rural habitat, capable of knitting of the entire spatial economic structure together in a functional sense. Thus, markets are the only outlets easily available to peasant society to dispose of their agrarian surplus produce. Further, market centres are treated as the channels for the circulation of the agricultural products, ideas and innovations within a region. Therefore, the growth of market centres and a marketing system is the most important indicator of the development of the country and its sub-regions.

The study of weekly market centres in Karmala tahsil of Solapur district highlights that the physical, social, economic and political factors play a significant role in the distribution and growth. The spatial distribution of market centres shows that nearly 83 percent markets of the study region are concentrated in Bhima Valley, where good agricultural practices, improved irrigation

facilities, increased agricultural productivity and commercial attitude of farmers in producing the cash crops like sugarcane, groundnut, chillies and pulses etc. favourable factors are observed. The distribution of market centes at block level reveals that Pomalwadi block has seven, Jeur block five, Korti block three market centres. The remaining three blocks, namely Karmala, Kem and Arjunnagar have only one market centre in each.

The analytical study of the distribution of weekly market centres, in different population size groups indicates that, a concentration of larger number of weekly market centres is in a small size group. The smaller size group of market · centres below the population of 2000 includes 10 market centres and account for 55.5 percent of total market centres. Another group with range of 2001 to 4000 population size comprises 5 market centres and accounts for 27.8 percent of total market centres. The third group (400£ to 7000) has two market centres. Karmala is the largest weekly market centre with more than 7001 population in the study region. Though, Karmala is an urban centre by status, most of the rural characteristics are found in this centre and therefore, it is also included in the present study.

The spatial distribution of weekly market centres indicates that small size market centres are more in number as compared to the large size market centres. The spatial pattern of distribution of weekly market centres is characterized by their uneven

distribution. When the distribution of market centres in relation to levels of economic development are studied, it is observed that centres are widely spaced and relatively large in size and are found in areas of high and moderate level of development where high density of population is also observed. At the other end of the scale in areas of poor level of development, centres are closely spaced and their size is relatively smaller. The application of N - N technique for the understanding of distributional pattern of market centres within study area shows that the distribution is nearer to uniform where the degree of randomness is 1.22 and the critical value of 5.86 kms.

The regional growth character of market centres and the population of market centres shows a considerable growth. In the study region six new weekly market centres emerged during 1961-1971 decade. In the study area from 1961 to 1981 several new rural markets have emerged on the landscape, at the same time many markets have lost their importance as market status due to various factors.

The centrality of market centres within the study region has been calculated by selected parameters and a new method of Excess Population served by surplus functions is introduced. The traditional methods of Godlund and Davies are also used for the computation of centrality scores of market centres. The centrality scores based on Godlund's and Davies method and centrality values calculated by a new method when comparatively studied, new method give a realistic results.

A comparative analysis of three methods proves the suitability and superiority of the new method. From the analysis of population size and centrality values by new method and associated methods, one can make the generalization and reach to the conclusion that the importance of a place is not simply measured in terms of it's population size but the functional base seems the most suitable, superior and significant in showing the reality of weekly market centres and their spatial organization.

The centrality rank and population rank of weekly market centres study indicate that the higher order weekly market centres have lower degree of deviation and lower order weekly market centres shows the higher degree of deviation.

The hierarchic orders of weekly market centres in study area are determined on the basis of centrality scores. Further, a four fold market centre hierarchy has been established in the study region. At the apex of the hierarchical class system, stands the Karmala whereas Hingani market centre at the least. Out of the total weekly market centres of the study region one (1) market centre is in first order, two (2) in second order, five (5) in third order and the remaining in fourth order of hierarchy.

The comparative analysis of four fold hierarchy of market centres indicates that the existing pattern shows the departure from the theoretical 'K' value. According to the

K - 3 principle, the progression of weekly market centres is
1 : 2 : 6 : 18 ... etc. In the study region, it reads 1 : 2 :
5 : 10 ... etc. The result clearly indicates a noticeable
difference in progression. Perhaps, this is because of the
fact that the region under study has wider spatial differences
and entire progression of central places (market centres) to
the lowest order is not considered while establishing hierarchic
orders, since the study is only confined to the market centres
of the region.

The spatial distribution of different hierarchic order
of market centres in the study region displays the pattern in
which the higher order weekly market centres are located in
central upland. This central upland area comprises four market
centres of which one is of Ist order, one more is of IInd order
and two are of IIIrd order. The western half of the study region
comprises larger number of weekly market centres of lower orders,
whereas, the eastern half of the region possess few number of
weekly market centres of high order. Thus, the four tier hiera-
chy of weekly market centres is observed in the study region in
which the distinct socio-economic conditions are well reflected.

Market centres are evolved because of economic activity
of exchange which results from the processes of production,
distribution and consumption. Exchange transaction are located
at convenient points of focus of producers and consumers, who
keep visiting the points in order to carry out their business

activities. Thus, these points are the market places and are not existed in isolation. The origin, growth and prospects of devdlopment of market are solely depend on surrounding areas, where from producers and customers belongs and interacts. As the market centres performs central functions, they provide the central facilities and services to their own population as well as the population of the surrounding region. In return the surrounding region also supporting the market centres by providing the local agrarian and other products. Thus, there is interdependance among market centres and their surrounding area. The surrounding area is interpreted with different terminology i.e. trading area, catchment area, service area, command area, influence area, tributary area or hinterland in the literature of marketing geography.

There have been two approaches in the identification and delimitation of service area of the market centres. The first has looked outward from the market place in order to identified the areas which are served by the market place. The second has looked inward from the adjoining region and has been more concern with consumers behaviour. Thus, the service areas are complex areal phenomena and are a result of the size of market, economic structure, nature of accessibility range of goods and consumers behaviour.

The service areas of the market centres within the study region have been determined and delimited both by applying the

the empirical method as well as theoretical. In empirical
method the parameters like vegetable supply zone, customer's
residence zone and medical service zone are adopted. It is
observed that vegetable supply ranges from 15 to 20 kms at
Karmala Ist ranking market centre in the region. The medium
size market centres have average range of supply extends 7
to 10 kms. In the case of small market centres the range is
only 3 to 5 kms.

Besides the marketing services, medical services are
also significant in this endeavour. In this context, it is
observed that fourth order market centres have minimum range
of medical services i.e. 5 kms. The higher order market
centres possess the higher level of medical facilities and
have maximum range of medical services i.e. 20 kms. Twelve
to fifteen km range is observed in case of medium level of
market centres.

The service area of market centres in the study region
are also determined on the basis of the model put forward by
V.L.S. Prakash Rao. At the same time a slightly modified form
of the said model is also applied and results are comparatively
studied.

The comparative study of the service areas calculated
by the new method along with traditional, clearly reveals that
if a market centre has got a greater functional magnitude it
bears a greater range of service, inspite of its smaller popula-
tion size.

A closer examination of the characteristics of the service areas indicate that Karmala the Ist order market centre provides it's services to three lower order market centres and 75 villages. Karmala serves about 810 sq.kms area and it offers services to one lakh population. On the other hand the fourth order market centres (Manjargaon, Dahigaon, Sogaon, Kugaon etc. and other) served an average area of 122 sq.kms and mean population of 12,444 in the study region.

The delimitation of service area / market area is one of the most important research field of the marketing geography. The service areas calculated by new method reveals the fact that, while calculating the market / service area of the market centres, the due weightages should be given to the functional magnitude of the market place rather than it's population size.

The regional analysis of service areas shows that there is a considerable overlapping in the service areas of the centres along the river Bhima and this part of the region is well served. The eastern part of the tahsil and the Sina valley region is moderately served. The poorly served area is observed at the marginal tracts.

It is worth mentioning that the analytical study of service areas shows the fact that it veries in size and higher order centres have larger area. The lower order centres have

relatively smaller service area which tends to nest in the service area of higher order centres.

The overall study of market centres and their spatial organization within the study region stimulate to suggest certain strategies for more efficient market system and development in the area. Keeping in view the efficient functioning of market system, the development policy,strategies like the synchronization of market days, the proposed system of market system and other locational strategies are recommended. These strategies would cumulatively affect on present marketing system and would facilitate to accelerate the pace of rural development.