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I N T R O D U C T I O N

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Service centres are the central places which play a very significant role in accelerating the pace of rural development. These centres have been looked upon as the basic building blocks of a much more complex hierarchy of central places, capable of knitting of the entire spatial economic structure together in a functional sense. Not only the service centres have economic importance but they are socially and culturally important too. They help in increasing social contacts, serves as the centres of diffusion and become a focus for political and other activities. Any planning for rural development, therefore, must take into account, the presence, the functions and organisation of these service centres.

The present study deals with the spatial organisation of service centres in Walwa taluka. In this work, particularly attempts are made in the direction of identification of service centres and their spatial pattern of distribution. The service centres are evaluated in terms of their functional centrality and are organised in a hierarchic orders. This study also attempts to high lights on the complementary areas of the service centres and their delimitations.

The work has been divided into five chapters.

Chapter I, deals with an introduction to the region under study and explores geographical setting, physical aspects, drainage and general landuse. The industrial landscape and network of

transportation within the study area also briefly outlined. The economy of the study area, irrigation facilities, settlements, markets, etc. also taken into account in summarising the geographical personality of the region. This chapter also incorporates data base and methodology in brief. The identification of the service centres by certain criteria has also been included in this chapter.

Chapter II, deals with spatial distribution of service centres. The important features of this chapter are the computation of level of development and distribution of service centres composite indices of developments are calculated and correlated with service centres. To find out the spatial distribution pattern of service centres the nearest neighbour analysis technique has employed and the results have been obtained. The degree of concentration of the service centres within the study area has worked out.

Chapter III, attempts to highlight on the centrality and hierarchy of service centres. The centrality of the service centres has been calculated with traditional methods. An attempt has been made to evolve a new method for the measurement of centrality. Regional analysis of centrality has been done and hierarchic order of service centres based upon centrality measured by new method, has been established. To show the superiority of the new method in the centrality measurement. The centrality scores of the service centres by Godlund's method and Davies method have

also calculated along with the new method which is designated as "Excess population served by surplus functions".

Chapter IV, presents the analytical study in connection with delimitation of complementary areas of service centres. This chapter includes the explanation of concept of service area, the methods for delimiting the complementary areas. The complementary areas of the service centres have been demarcated by both the imperical as well as quantitative methods. The imperical methods essentially consists of the parameters like highschool, primary public health centre services and the weekly market services. A new quantitative method has been evelved with a slight modification of V.L.S. Prakashrao's model of sphere of influence with a new quantitative technique, service areas of service centres have been demarcated and cartographically represented and analytically interpreted.

The last chapter is devoted to summary. The summary has been given, containing significant observations and conclusions of the study.

The basic data pertaining to market centres, population, area, functions and other have been collected through different sources like census report, population tables, secio-economic abstract, handbooks and gazetteers and other government publications are used. The primary data have collected through intensive fieldwork. The basic data have been processed, tabulated and presented in a revised form & used for the purpose of preparation

of maps and their interpretation. It is highly impossible to include all the data collected and processed in the dissertation. Only relevant and important information is included in the form of tables. Various geographical and quantitative techniques and statistical methods have been used.

In the style of presentation, the references are given at the end of each chapter. A brief bibliography is attached.

The maps and graphs are prepared by author. The cartographic work has completed in the Departmental Cartographic Laboratory. It is hoped that this work add to the existing knowledge in the field of Settlement Geography.