CHAPTER-IV

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS OF TOWNS

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CHAPTER-IV

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS OF TOWNS

4.1 INTRODUCTION :-

The geographical study of an urban settlement is primarily concerned with the physical set up and cultural factors included in the origin and growth of settlement. A city or town is a special combination of a place and its people. Growth of cities and towns can be well traced in their locational and regional setting, the infrastructure and more over in their economic base on which they flourish. Therefore, the scale and pace of urbanization is overwhelmed by such fast growing cities and towns.

In the preceding chapter, the salient features of the trends of urbanization and the growth pattern of urban system in Western Maharashtra Plateau at the district and tehsil lvels have been brought out. The aim of this chapter is to trace the growth characteristics of towns, with a view to examine them in conjuction with the demographic growth rate of the urban places. In the subsequent pages, an absolute growth of population and growth rate of individual towns have been attempted. A relation between the size and towns and their demographic growth has also been investigated. Finally, while tracing the growth characteristics of towns, reasons for differential growth trends have been examined.

Growth of towns, in its simplest form, may be measured in two ways; increase in the number of towns and increase in the size of individual towns. Both these aspects form part of the study of growth characteristics of towns.

4.2   INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TOWNS IN THE STUDY REGION:-

The increase in the number of urban centres has already been discussed in detail while tracing the trends of urbanization in the region. It may be mentioned here, briefly, that prior to 1951, the growth in the number of number of urban centres was normal. The number of urban centres increased from 70 in 1901 to merely 85 in 1941. In 1951, the region experienced the highest number (150) of towns. This sudden rise in the number of towns was the result of change in the crietria in the definition of the term 'town'. In the next decade, the number of towns declined to 81, because of the criteria in the definition of the town were again changed. The total number of towns rose from 70 in 1901 to 95 by the end of 1981, an increase of 35.71 per cent over a span of eighy years. The highest rate of growth, howver, was recorded in 1951.

The areas of rapid growth in the number of towns are confined mainly to three tracts, one along the southern boundary of the region, second extending northward from Pune in the central part of the region and third around Nashik in the northern part of the region. The increase in the number of towns around Pune and Nashik has come largely from urban and industrial development. In the southern boundary of the region especially in the area between Kolhapur and Sangli, growth

could be attributed to the sudden spurt in agricultural productivity, resulted from large scale irrigation. The rise in income from agriculture in this part has engendered a demand for goods and services which is met by a concomitant growth in the number of urban places.

4.3 GROWTH IN THE SIZE OF TOWNS :-

An increase in the size of individual towns forms the major part of the inquiry into growth characteristics of towns. The growth in the size of towns during a given period of time may be explained as absolute growth, percentage growth and rate of growth. The absolute growth in the size of towns shows an amount of net increase in a particular period. It throws light on the magnitude of problems of urbanization in terms of the extra number of urbanites who should be provided with urban amenities.Here an attempt has been made to exhibit absolute growth in the size of individual towns in the study region. The growth in population of towns since 1901 to 1981 is shown in Fig.4.1.

Comparing the growth in the size of individual towns in the region, we find that towns have grown at a more vigorous pace. There is remarkable distinction in the growth inthe size of towns. Generally, large towns have recorded rapid growth in their size. For instance, the population size of Pune, Solapur and Kolhapur cities has increased by 8 times, 6.8 times and 6.3 times during 1901-81 respectively.
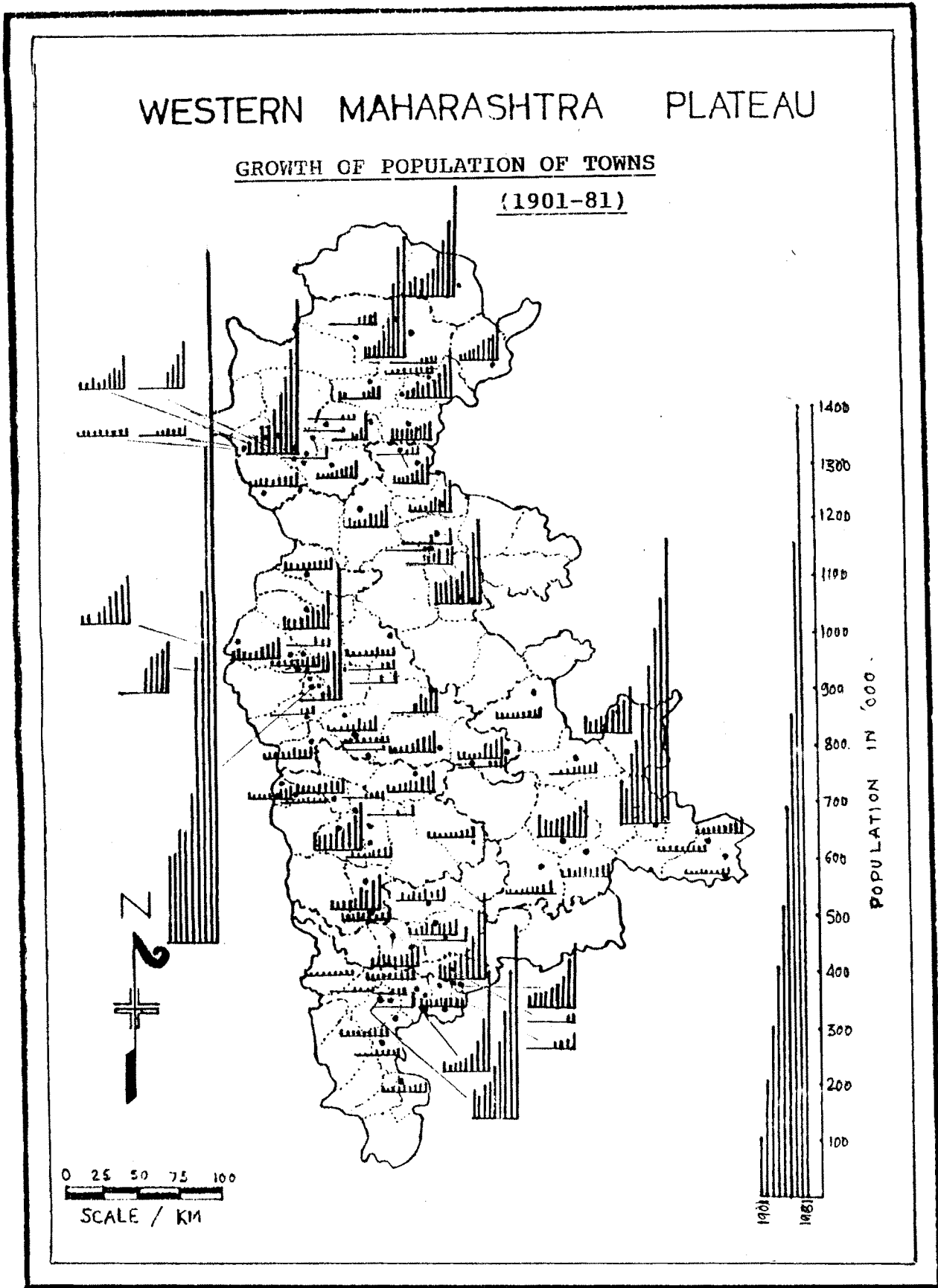
WESTERN MAHARASHTRA PLATEAU

GROWTH OF POPULATION OF TOWNS

(1901-81)

FIG.4.1

4.4   GROWTH RATE OF TOWNS :-

The rate of population growth of individual towns shows the speed at which the process of urbanization is taking place and it provides a good statistics for comparative studies. The growth rate of towns gives a correct picture of the scale and pace of urbanization influenced by the locational and regional setting of towns. Gibbs(1966) suggested simple formula to express the amount of change in population size. The rate of growth of urban population has been calculated decade-wise by the following equation :

$$r = \frac{(P_2 - P_1)/t}{(P_2 + P_1)/2} \times 100$$

Where, r = the rate of change.

P_1 = the population size of town in the initial period of time.

P_2 = the population size of that town at a later period of time

t = the number of years or decades.

With the help of above formula, the decadewise growth rates of 95 urban centres have been calculated (Table 4.1)

Table 4.1 clearly shows that the entire period under study can be conveniently divided into three phases of growth. The initial period comprises 1901 to 1921. Most of the towns show a decline in their population in the first decade (1901-1911). Nearly all towns excepting Pune, Nashik, Malegaon, Dhule, Sangamner, Lonawala, Akkalkot, Igatpuri, Nandgaon, Mangalvedha, Sangola, Maindargi, Dudhani and Trimbak show high

TABLE 4.1

DECADEWISE GROWTH RATE OF TOWNS IN THE STUDY REGION, 1901-81

Name of town/city:	1901-11	1911-21	1921-31	1931-41	1941-51	1951-61	1961-71	1971-81	Mean growth rate (1951-81)
(1)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pune	3.55	22.21	-0.23	26.11	61.90	22.61	34.09	33.72	30.14
Solapur	-20.40	64.37	18.97	30.08	26.32	19.68	16.51	24.79	20.33
Kolhapur.	-25.63	21.80	24.24	32.92	38.11	31.21	32.07	27.21	30.16
Nashik.	33.37	23.80	17.90	13.54	59.77	29.86	29.29	39.38	32.84
Malegaon	0.03	20.89	22.43	22.16	39.74	75.25	44.97	24.69	48.30
Pimpri-Chinchwad	--	--	--	--	--	98.42	99.66	90.26	96.11
Dhule	20.39	-2.82	29.38	29.37	36.21	25.05	32.40	42.33	33.26
Sangli.	-4.17	23.14	29.35	23.83	36.45	37.94	43.70	27.85	36.50
Ahmadnagar	-5.47	38.20	-17.41	25.61	39.51	38.17	-0.66	19.61	19.84
Ichalkaranji	-13.85	1.20	21.05	20.33	21.37	28.04	37.05	30.43	51.54
Pune Cantonment	--	--	--	12.17	37.33	10.94	16.62	10.03	12.53

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1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Satara	-30.45	15.90	16.07	31.93	12.04	17.01	30.78	22.57	24.45
Kirkee Cantonment	26.03	--	--	46.88	59.51	18.58	11.29	20.96	16.94
Nashik Road Deolali	--	--	--	--	--	39.25	32.32	33.40	34.99
Barshi	-36.81	20.15	29.80	7.13	18.28	18.51	21.25	15.07	18.28
Pandharpur	-12.64	-12.42	15.54	12.32	19.46	11.42	16.59	18.20	15.80
Chalisgaon	-13.41	17.02	42.30	30.18	31.35	12.18	19.58	34.87	22.21
Deolali Cantonment	-44.84	164.44	-82.61	70.44	49.73	31.67	-19.58	61.40	24.50
Shrirampur	--	--	--	--	--	33.19	53.58	33.69	40.15
Karad	-2.38	0.24	25.05	21.65	35.34	27.06	22.48	24.89	24.81
Manmad	-2.36	52.79	2.76	37.82	8.59	52.91	23.77	24.87	33.85
Sangamner	3.87	-15.89	18.71	16.12	19.05	25.84	27.28	33.47	28.56
Ozar	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60.98	60.98
Ahmadnagar Cant.	--	--	--	3.68	40.25	--	--	21.07	21.07
Baramati	-18.28	10.64	18.12	22.22	26.59	21.24	27.71	28.32	25.76
Kopargaon	--	--	--	20.46	28.11	36.88	41.97	35.26	38.04
Lonawala	59.10	-25.00	-1.40	14.24	42.65	28.68	23.52	27.47	25.56
Phaltan	-6.23	56.65	7.20	33.97	-10.76	44.05	33.95	23.37	33.79

1.	2.	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Dehu Road Cantonment.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	29.52	29.52
Islampur	-29.60	-7.98	30.34	14.04	26.36	25.47	26.44	19.46	23.79
Kabnur	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Akkalkot	10.81	-1.23	16.64	23.94	26.95	1607	21.80	6.88	14.92
Yevla	-1.73	27.64	19.94	5.09	10.83	25.26	25.81	19.17	23241
Tasgaon	-46.62	27.64	19.94	5.09	10.83	25.26	25.81	19.,17	23.41
Daund(NM)	-.	–	–	–	–	–	30.50	27.52	29.01
Wai	-89.59	62.76	14.10	23.50	7.78	10.18	16.63	15.85	14.22
Vita	–	-15.56	34.05	20.48	22.68	36.14	33.22	25.45	31.60
Jaysingpur	–	–	–	–	–	30.86	43.74	33.43	36.01
Rahuri	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kalamb	–	–	–	–	–	38.74	16.31	1.28	18.81
Talegaon(D)	-46.93	0.80	19.80	0.10	45.49	59.71	33.69	30.77	41.39
Sinnar	-79.29	79.06	25.17	13.88	20.15	26.72	16.76	8.10	17.19
Ashta	-28.05	-3.59	22.00	-1.20	21.48	15.06	21.36	17.88	18.10
Satara	–	–	–	–	–	21.59	28-.84	21.85	24.09
Hadapsar	-.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Kirloskarwadi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Igatpuri	8.58	26.59	-3.05	-16.54	43.22	6.21	14.88	16.08	12.39
Satpur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kurduwadi	—	—	18.91	13.24	2.71	24.48	25.54	9.04	19.69
Daund(M)	—	—	—	—	38.02	-37.38	24.89	15.24	1.00
Gadhinglaj	-7.60	2.40	27.29	12.42	-5.36	22.20	31.42	23.33	25.65
Junnar	-9.25	-17.77	13.16	16.66	15.58	4.28	20.75	20.20	15.08
Nandgaon	10.43	13.15	-23.78	14.60	24.61	33.70	19.78	11.19	21.56
Kurundwad	-37.73	-0.94	-5.49	29.75	7.65	11.19	29.08	15.61	18.63
Lohgaon	—	—	—	—	—	—	83.86	30.03	56.95
Mangalvedha	20.80	-20.11	22.11	-94.00	-3.99	34.94	13.78	10.40	19.71
Karmala	-7.06	-31.06	31.53	6.70	11.54	31.27	22.15	-17.40	23.61
Khadakwasala	—	—	—	—	—	—	23.04	56.97	40.00
Kagal	-27.33	15.84	15.43	0.52	20.05	5.92	25.21	20.80	17.31
Sangola	13.43	-21.16	21.51	6.20	27.80	21.26	15.66	28.15	21.69
Mhaswad	-33.50	28.05	9.27	11.15	11.65	15.79	19.60	15.19	16.86
Koregaon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vadgaon(K)	47.65	26.73	-5.48	23.82	20.95	33.28	23.38	27.65	28.10
Ravalgaon	—	—	—	—	—	32.55	12.46	11.77	18.89
Shirur	-51.77	-31.36	-0.62	15.45	-3.08	56.65	35.17	31.19	41.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Vadgaon Sheri	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bhor	-0.24	-1.94	23.66	19.97	15.41	15.40	21.53	18.06	18.33
Sasvad	-97.70	71.75	16.50	6.06	10.07	28.87	22.96	15.71	22.51
Sangvi Haveli	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rahimatpur	-	-11.70	11.80	10.30	20.71	12.83	12.02	12.13	12.32
Bhagur	-	-	-	36.42	6.98	20.02	27.97	16.43	21.47
Madhavnagar	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.48	22.91	32.19
Maindargi	2.12	-1.50	1.46	9.73	24.74	7.83	-2.20	3.25	2.96
Kalas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Satara Road	-	-	-	-	-	18.96	27.06	5.04	17.32
Gandhinagar	-	-	-	-	-	-	38.28	23.96	31.12
Eklahare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wari	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.43	11.10	19.77
Chandvad	-42.79	-	-	-	-	25.43	19.92	12.35	19.23
Indapur	-24.26	-13.91	5.32	9.94	12.52	14.44	18.02	30.92	21.13
Mahabaleshwar	-26.28	20.55	-9.57	11.35	2.34	19.21	19.31	21.28	19.93
Lasalgaon	-	-	-	-	-	-	24.26	23.02	23.64

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Panchgani	-	80.77	18.12	22.55	20.58	23.13	18.70	22.25	21.36
Murgud	-	-	-	-	21.90	7.34	20.96	13.98	14.09
Dudhani	5.68	-1.29	12.91	17.61	26.35	5.10	4.60	20.95	10.22
Dehu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-109.38	29.28	-80.10
Alandi	-21.69	-3.51	6.06	26.28	11.39	26.88	40.15	44.44	37.16
Shivatkar(Nira)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trimbak	15.76	12.83	-5.27	1.56	-3.00	15.18	13.21	20.63	16.34
Jujuri	-	-27.58	21.70	15.68	3.59	14.85	16.84	20.55	17.41
Malkapur	-136.33	123.70	3.00	3.69	14.95	18.48	13.21	6.65	12.78
Warwandi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vadner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panhala	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.00	13.49	13.25

decrease in their population. In the next decade, twenty-two towns show a further decrease in their population except Solapur, Kolhapur, Sangli, Ahmadnagar, Miraj, Satara, Barshi, Chalisgaon, Deolali cantonment, Karad, Manmad, Baramati, Phaltan, Tasgaon, Wai, Talegaon(D), Sinnar, Gadhinglaj, Kagal, Mhaswad, Vadgaon(K), Sasvad and Mahabaleshwar. All the remaining towns show growth ranging between 0.03 to 164.44 per cent. Towns like Lonawala, Solapur, Deolali cantonment, Manmad Phaltan, Sinnar, Wai, Panchagani, Malkapur and Sasvad indicate a growth rate of more than 50 per cent.

The second phase of thirty years (1921-1951) shows that most of the towns are growZing at a moderate rate. The mean growth rate of all these towns during this period was 15.05 per cent. Nearly eleven towns recorded negative growth rate ranging from 0.23 to 82.61 per cent during the decade 1921-31.

The third phase of urban growth began after independence with the addition of new towns in the region. During the period of thirty years, the mean growth rate of towns has accelerated and found above 24.22 per cent. Some of the towns are growing at a faster rate in the Post-Independence period, while few towns have added very little population. On the other hand, few newly added towns like Pimpri-Chinchwad, Nashik Road Deolali, Shrirampur, Ozar, Lohgaon, Khadakwasala, Gandhinagar and Madhavnagar indicate a very high growth rate.

4.5   SIZE AND GROWTH RATE RELATIONSHIP :

In order to get a realistic picture of population

growth in various size-categories, size and growth rate of individual towns have been studied. The proportion of population living in large-size urban centres to the region's total urban population has ever been on the increase. For instance, the share of population of class I towns among the total urban population in the region was 17.07 per cent in 1901, and it increased to 33.15 per cent in 1951 and further went upto 63.45 per cent in 1981. This growing share of what Bose(1972) calls, 'effective urban population of the state stemmed from both the rapid increase in the size as well as number of bigger urban places.' The number of urban centres in the region has gone up from 70 to 95 during the same period.

Table 4.2 has been prepared to show the growth rate of urban population by size-class of towns. The growth rates are worked out by using Gibb's formula of measures of change in population size.

It is evident from the Table 4.2, that the large size towns have the strong tendency of growing at a faster speed than the medium and small size towns. This growth of large size towns can be explained by various factors, important among them being employment opportunities due to industrial and commercial developments, administrative, educational and medical facilities etc. The growth rate of urban population in Class I towns was 183.37 per cent during 1901-1981, whereas Class IV towns recorded the growth rate of 76.75 per cent only during the same period. The medium size (Class II and III) towns and

DECADEWISE GROWTH RATE OF POPULATION BY SIZE-CLASSES

OF TOWNS IN THE REGION, 1901-81.

Size-Class	1901-11	1911-21	1921-31	1931-41	1941-51	1951-61	1961-71	1971-81
I(100,000 & above)	3.55	66.78	7.44	31.35	62.97	49.96	39.87	44.32
II(50,000-99,999)	-71.53	45.97	-37.93	116.50	49.46	7.50	32.95	16.47
III(20,000-49,999)	12.19	9.86	46.52	-12.05	33.22	7.75	21.95	26.85
IV(10,000-19,999)	-23.76	-57.34	75.22	26.21	21.14	11.64	13.16	12.22
V(5,000-9,999)	-13.56	7.32	5.97	8.59	94.46	-124.00	0.80	-39.35
VI(Less than 5000)	69.69	8.43	-27.64	-24.60	-10.51	-106.23	45.41	-60.99

small size (Class IV, V and VI) towns registered the growth rate of 133.54 per cent and 21.35 per cent respectively during the last eighty years.

From the decade-wise analysis it may be noted that the Class I towns have registered the highest growth rate (44.32 per cent) during 1971-81. While the lowest growth rate (-60.99 per cent) is observed in case of the class VI towns during the same period. The medium and small size towns have recorded the growth rate of 21.51 per cent and -1.57 per cent respectively during 1971-81. It is clear from the above discussion that the region under study has considerable disparities in the pattern of growth rates for the various categories of towns. Thus, within the region the large towns have not only grown at a faster rate but also displayed an even more vigorous pace and growth.

Comparing the growth rate of individual towns with their size, we find that the growth rate of urban population and size of towns are low positively correlated in Western Maharashtra Plateau (Fig.4.2). This confirms the hypothesis that larger urban centres, especially cities continue to grow at a faster rate than any other towns and predominate in the urban scene.

4.6   GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS OF TOWNS :-

It would be desirable to examine the growth trend of individual towns over a longer span of time in order to gain a legible perspective. Considering the Post-Independnce mean

WESTERN MAHARASHTRA PLATEAU

POPULATION SIZE-AND GROWTH RTE RELATIONSHIP.

GROWTH RATE
1971-81

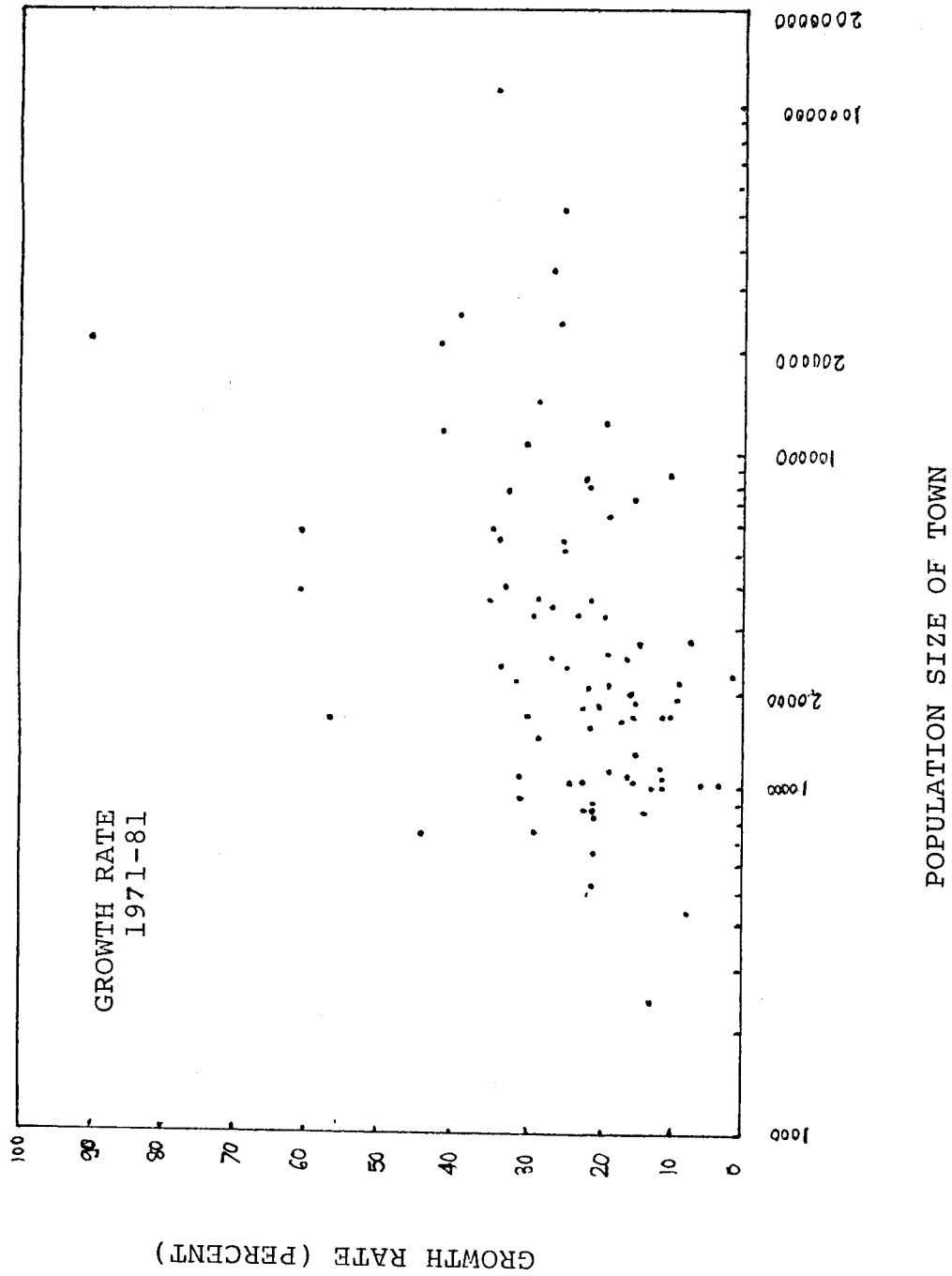GROWTH RATE (PERCENT)

POPULATION SIZE OF TOWN

FIG. 4.2.

growth rate of individual towns, the urban centres were grouped
into five categories in order to understand their growth
characteristics (Table 4.3).

Over fourty-five per cent of towns in the decade
1951-61 had growth rates ranging from 15-30 per cent. In the
following decades, the tempo of growth appears to have
increased slowly, as is evident from the increase in the number
of towns having a growth rate of 15-30 per cent, from 54.43 to
54.88 per cent. The group showing 15-30 per cent growth rate,
however, covers the largest number of towns in all decades
after Independence. It is followed by the group which has
recorded a growth rate of 30-45 per cent. The number of towns
having the fast growth rate (above 45 per cent) has slightly
declined since the decade 1951-61. There was not a single town
in the study region showing a negative growth rate in the
decade 1971-81.

On the basis of the Post-Independence mean growth rate
of individual towns, the growth characteristics of all towns
have been analysed. It is observed that in the study region
there are five towns, namely Pimpri-Chinchwad, Ichalkaranji,
Malegaon, Ozar and Lohgaon are rapidly growing with a mean
growth rate of more than 45 per cent (Fig.4.3). The
unprecendented growth rate of these towns has resulted from the
industrial development.In a comparative study of a sample of
rapidly growing and declining towns in India found that there
were more "artisan towns" (household industry towns) in the set

TABLE 4.3

DISTRIBUTION OF TOWNS IN THE FIVE GROWTH CATEGORIES FOR THE

DECADES 1951-61, 1961-71 AND 1971-81.

Sr.No.	Growth-rate (percent)	Growth Characteristics	Number of towns.			
			1951-61	1961-71	1971-81	1951-81
1.	45 & above	Rapidly growing towns	6(8.57)	4(5.06)	4(4.88)	6(6.10)
2.	30-45	Moderately growing towns.	16(22.86)	19(24.06)	16(19.51)	19(23.17)
3.	15-30	Slowly growing towns	32(45.71)	43(54.43)	45(54.88)	44(53.66)
4.	0-15	Stagnant towns	14(20.00)	9(11.39)	17(20.73)	13(15.85)
5.	Negative	Declining towns	2(2.86)	4(5.06)	- (-)	1(1.22)
			70(100.00)	79(100.00)	82(100.00)	82(100.00)

Figures in bracket show percentage of total number of towns.

WESTERN MAHARASHTRA PLATEAU

STATUS OF TOWNS

1951-81.

PUNE CITY TALUKA

N

0 25 50 75 100
SCALE/KM.

● Rapidly growing towns
● Moderately growing towns
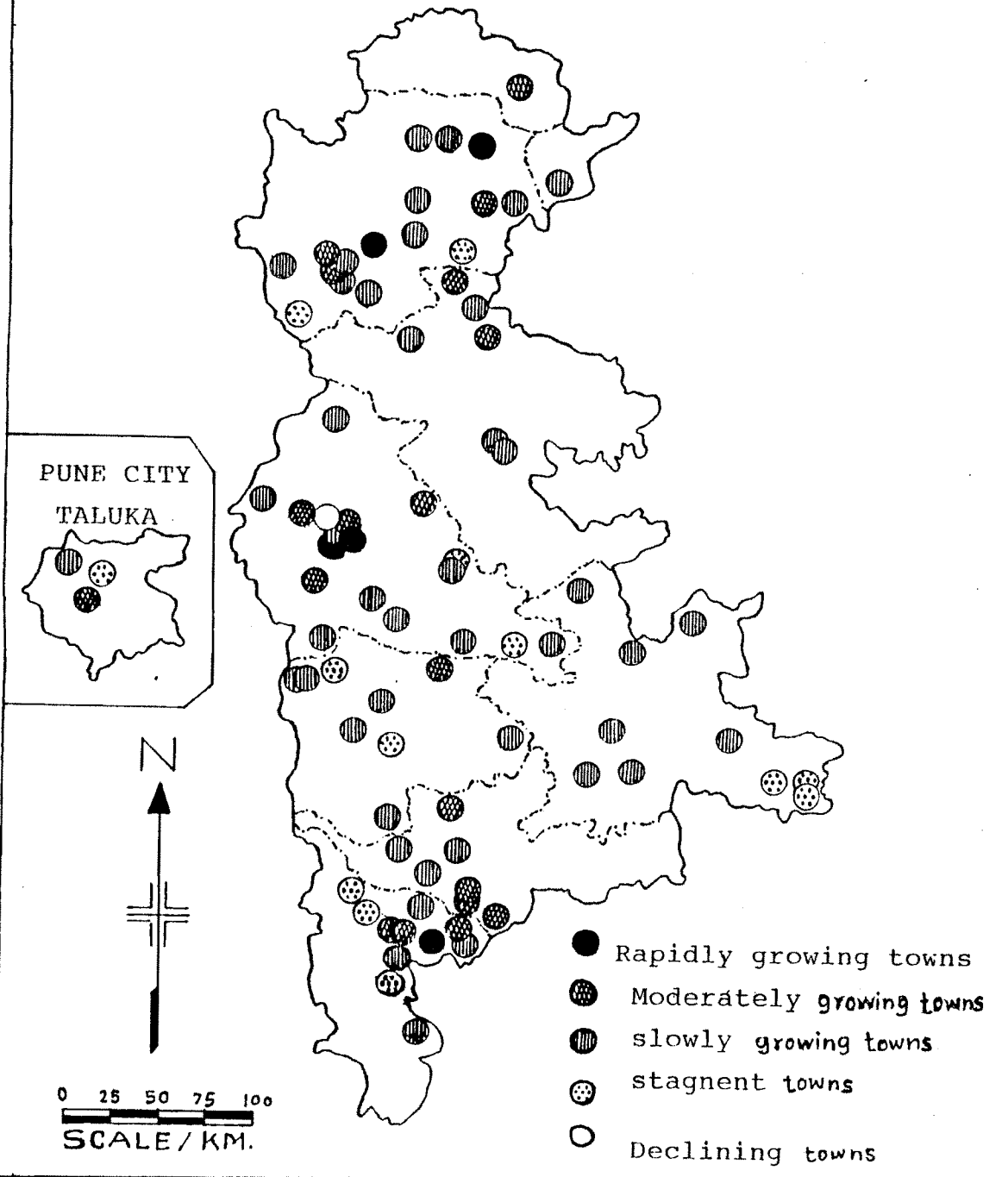● slowly growing towns
● stagnent towns
○ Declining towns

FIG.4.3

of declining towns than in the set of rapidly growing towns (Suri,1972).Pimpri-Chinchwad recorded the highest (96.11 per cent) growth rate in the region. Among the rapidly growing towns, Ozar and Lohgaon are relatively new towns. It is observed that the rapidly growing towns in the region are located near the big cities like Pune and Nashik.

Nineteen towns are growing at a moderate rate ranging between 30 per cent to 45 per cent. Pune, Kolhapur, Gandhinagar, Nashik, Nashik Road Deolali, Sangli, Miraj, Madhavnagar, Dhule, Manmad, Shrirampur, Kopargaon, Phaltan, Vita, Jaysingpur, Talegaon(D), Khadakwasala, Shirur and Alandi are moderately growing towns in the region. Many large such as Pune, Kolhapur, Nashik and Sangli towns show moderate growth rate because most of the new industries are now being located on the outskirts of the main constituent urban centres and hence they display a moderate rate of growth. Towns like Shrirampur, Kopargaon, Phaltan, Jaysingpur and Manmad have grown at a faster rate. The growth rate of these towns belonging the category of moderate growth is closely associated with the scale of agricultural productivity.In addition to industrial development centred at a very few big towns, many moderately growing towns in the region appear to be linked intimately with agricultural prosperity.

Therefore, most of the moderately growing towns are located in the lower part of upper Krishna Valley and in the upper part of the Bhima and Godavari Valleys.

Nearly fourty-four towns in the region display a lower growth rate of 15-30 per cent; and hence they are categorised as slowly growing towns. Towns like, Solapur, Barshi, Pandharpur, Kurduwadi, Mangalvedha, Karmala, Sangola in Solapur district, Ahmadnagar, Sangamner, Ahmadnagar cantonment, Wari in Ahmadnagar district, Baramati, Khadki cantonment, Lonawala, Dehu Road Cantonment, Daund, Junnar, Bhor, Sasvad, Indapur and Jejuri in Pune district, Karad, Satara, Mhaswad, Satara Road, Mahabaleshwar, and Panchagani in Satara district, Deolali cantonment, Sinnar, Satara, Nandgaon, Ravalgaon, Trimbak, Bhagur, Chandvad and Lasalgaon in Nashik district, Islampur, Tasgaon and Ashta in Sangli district, Gadhinglaj, Kagal, Kurundwad and Vadgaon (K) in Kolhapur district and Chalisgaon in Jalgaon district are slowly growing towns. In the eastern part of the region the tendency of slow growth rate of towns is more pronounced. Most of the towns from Ahmadnagar and Solapur districts located in the arid and drought-prone areas, have growth rates that are well below the regional mean figure(24.23 per cent) for the period 1951-81.

Towns, namely Mahabaleshwar, Panchagani, Trimbak, Lonawala, Bhor, Sasvad and Gadhinglaj situated in the Western hilly tract covering the western part of Satara, Kolhapur, Pune and Nashik districts also indicate a low growth rates. An inaccessible and backward area and the general poverty of the terrain is reflected not only in the low growth rate of towns but also in the small number of urban places in these parts.

Thirteen towns, namely Akkalkot, Maindargi, Dudhani, Pune cantonment, Kalamb, Daund(M), Yevla, Igatpuri, Wai,Rahimatpur, Murgud, Malkapur and Panhala are the stagnent towns of the region whose rate of growth is below 15 per cent. With an exception of Wai and Pune cantonment, all other towns display poor growth rates. The most likely explanation for this appears to be that the growth rate of these towns is related to the economic growth of the surrounding areas which could not support a suitable economic condition upon which towns can grow. As a result of the absence of ecnomic development, towns of this category seem to have lagged behind or even stagnated. Khan(1976) identified four causes of slow growth and stagnation or decline of small and medium sized towns i.e. a high proportion of population dependant on agricultural, preponderance of household industry, low level of development of the hinterland and inferior location of town.

Only Dehu, a religious centre, indicates a negative growth rate and hence it is classified as declining town in the study region.

4.7   FACTORS AFFECTING THE GROWTH OF TOWNS :-

The growth of towns in the region does not appear uniform everywhere, but manifests itself at certain favoured points. Various factors can affect the growth of population of towns.

The growth rates of individual towns can be well examined in the light of their occupational structure. The

maximum increase in the size of the individual towns is promoted by industry, agriculture, commerce and services. Sita and Phadke(1980) in the study of declining towns of India, analysed functional categories for the decline of urban settlements. Though, industry brings about maximum growth. Agriculture is another important agent growth of population of towns. The area under irrigation and improvement in the techniques of cultivation reflect in this increase. Services are more important in infusing growth in the size of towns. Infrastructural facilities are the most vital attributes in promoting the growth rate of towns.In the areas where economic development is apparent, the urban places have grown at a faster rate (Diddee,1984).

Accessibility is yet another factor which plays a vital role in promoting or impeding quick growth in many areas of the region. The towns which located along Bombay-Pune, Pune-Bangalore, Bombay-Agra and Pune-Hyderabad highways as well as Bombay-Madras, Bombay-Delhi, and Bombay-Kolhapur railway lines, have recorded phenomenal increase in their population. The important urban centres along the major highways and railways and their phenomenal increase in size and areal expansion and extension is described as urban corridors of the region.On the other hand, towns those are away from the arteries of transport have remained more or less static. With few exceptions, towns with better accessibility show higher growth rates.

Significant relationship between the size of a town and its growth rate for a particular decade can give a clue for the growth of population of urban centres. Generally the number of towns in the large size group remains small in relation to the total number and their higher rate of growth tends to get obliterated in the small towns.

The percentage mean growth rates of towns at different levels in the hierarchy revealed higher order towns do not show a higher rate of growth as compared to those of the lower order. The first three highest order towns, Pune, Solapur and Kolhapur, do not display the highest growth rates in spite of their high ranks. The sixth order town, Pimpri-Chinchwad has the highest growth rate (96.11 percent) in the study region. Thus, wide contrast in the growth rates among the towns in the same order can give rise to unrealistic value, which maynot necessarily be representative of their order in the hierarchy.

From the view point of the locational or regional setting of towns, the terrain reflects its imprints not only in the low growth rate of towns but also in the small number of towns. Most rapidly and moderately growing towns of the region are located in the major river valleys of the study region; while the western hilly tract show small number of towns with low growth rate. Towns in these hilly and inaccessible areas are designated as slowly growing towns or stagnent towns of the region.

Despite these factors affecting growth of towns, some another points may be mentioned in the light of growth characteristics of towns. Northam(1963), in his study of the declining urban centres in the United States found that the declining centres were generally small urban centre. He identified the second important variable in the decline of urban centres as a spatial variable i.e. the distance of town from a city of 50,000 and more population.

SUMMARY :-

Towns in the region under study have not grown at an equal rate of growth. The big and bigger towns have shown more vigorous pace and growth than the medium and small towns. In the areas where economic development is absent, the towns have stagnated or slowly grown to such an extend that the ordinary settlements have sometimes grown at a faster rate. This tendency has been most pronounced in most of the towns from Solapur, Ahmadnagar and Satara districts. High growth rates are linked closely with the occupational structure, accessibility, nature of terrain and poulation size of towns. Most of the rapidly growing and even moderately growing towns are confined to the river valleys rather than the hilly tracts of the region.

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