

CHAPTER - VII

RURAL SERVICE CENTRES

AND REGIONAL PLANNING

RURAL SERVICE CENTRES AND REGIONAL PLANNING

The ' rural community ' defined as a local unit through whose facilities most of the people of a place and it's surroundings satisfy their day-to-day needs. This aspect has attracted the attention of sociologists and Geographers. The study of rural community is a functional area.

A 'service centre' together with it's community forms an activity system at the micro-level. It forms only a link in chain of the functional hierarchy of the area. The concept of ' service centre ' has been organised in-to ranks or successive orders of hierarchy (Sundaram 1972). In rural planning, where the problem is one of providing an efficient organization of economic and service functions for the people, these concepts are of great value.

When evolving a spatial frame work for rural planning it is necessary to consider the social relations of the area.

In the planning of rural service centres the use of central place theory and growth pole theory can be made. Other important theories are also to be given due consideration.

The important theories in this connection may be classified as :

1. The locational theories of Christaller (1933) and Losch (1939).
2. The growth pole theory of Perroux (1955)

3. The transmission development theory of Myrdal (1957) and Hirachaman (1958)
4. Hagarstand's (1952) theory of Geographical diffusion

In the present study the application of the concept of growth pole and central place theory has been made to identify new rural service centres. There are 59 rural service centres in the region having different functional importance.

THE ROLE OF PRESENT HIERARCHY OF RURAL SERVICE CENTRES :

The 4th and 3rd order rural service centres provide economic service functions and basic infrastructure like transport, banking, marketing and trade. These places have higher facilities and few of them are dominated by industrial growth. They serve the administrative needs of the people.

The second order rural service centres provide facilities of retail distribution of provision of rural services like education, health, cultural activities, transport and communication. They can reach the population dependent on the primary sector.

The lowest order rural service centres provide daily necessities to nearby rural population. They provide basic and daily needs of the surrounding people.

The order of hierarchy and provision of goods and services in each order of hierarchy depends upon the consumer's travel behaviour and demand pattern. In less

developed hilly areas where people walk more distance, use bicycles or bullock carts, in such areas walking distance is a very important factor and the people are having low purchasing power. On the other hand in better developed areas means of communication are better developed. People have higher purchasing power and their demands are different.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUNCTIONAL GAPS
FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

For the provision of functions and services, it is essential to find out the functional gaps in the area. To identify the functional gaps following equation is used (Deshmukh 1979) :-

$$MP = \frac{P}{F_i} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where

MP = Mean Population served by single function

P = total population of the region

F_i = total no. of functional units of ' i ' the function in the taluka.

$$X_{ie} = \frac{P_i}{MP} \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where

X_{ie} = the expected no. of units of 'i'th function in the area.

P_i = Population of 'i'th place

X_{io} = the observed no. of units in the taluka.

When X_{ie} is greater than the X_{io} value then the area is deficiently served by that function.

With the above equation the functional gaps have been identified and shown in the figure 7.1 and table 7-I gives details of functional gaps in each taluka.

SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONAL GAPS :

The identification of functional gaps has been attempted for secondary education, higher education, medical facility, banking facility and weekly market facility. The obtained values of available facilities are related to expected facilities in each taluka and the region has been classified into poorly served areas, moderately served areas and better served areas.

In respect of high school education, Panhala, Hatkanagale, Shirol, Kagal, Ajara, Bhudargad, Shahuwadi, Radhanagari and Chandgad talukas are poorly served. Karveer and Gadhinglaj talukas are moderately served only Bawada, taluka indicates better high-school education facility in relation to it's population.

In respect of higher education only Karveer taluka is better served. Shirol taluka is moderately served and all other talukas are poorly served.

Better medical facilities are provided in Karveer, Hatkanagale and Shirol talukas. All remaining talukas are medically poorly served.

KOLHAPUR DISTRICT
FUNCTIONAL DEFICIENCY AREAS

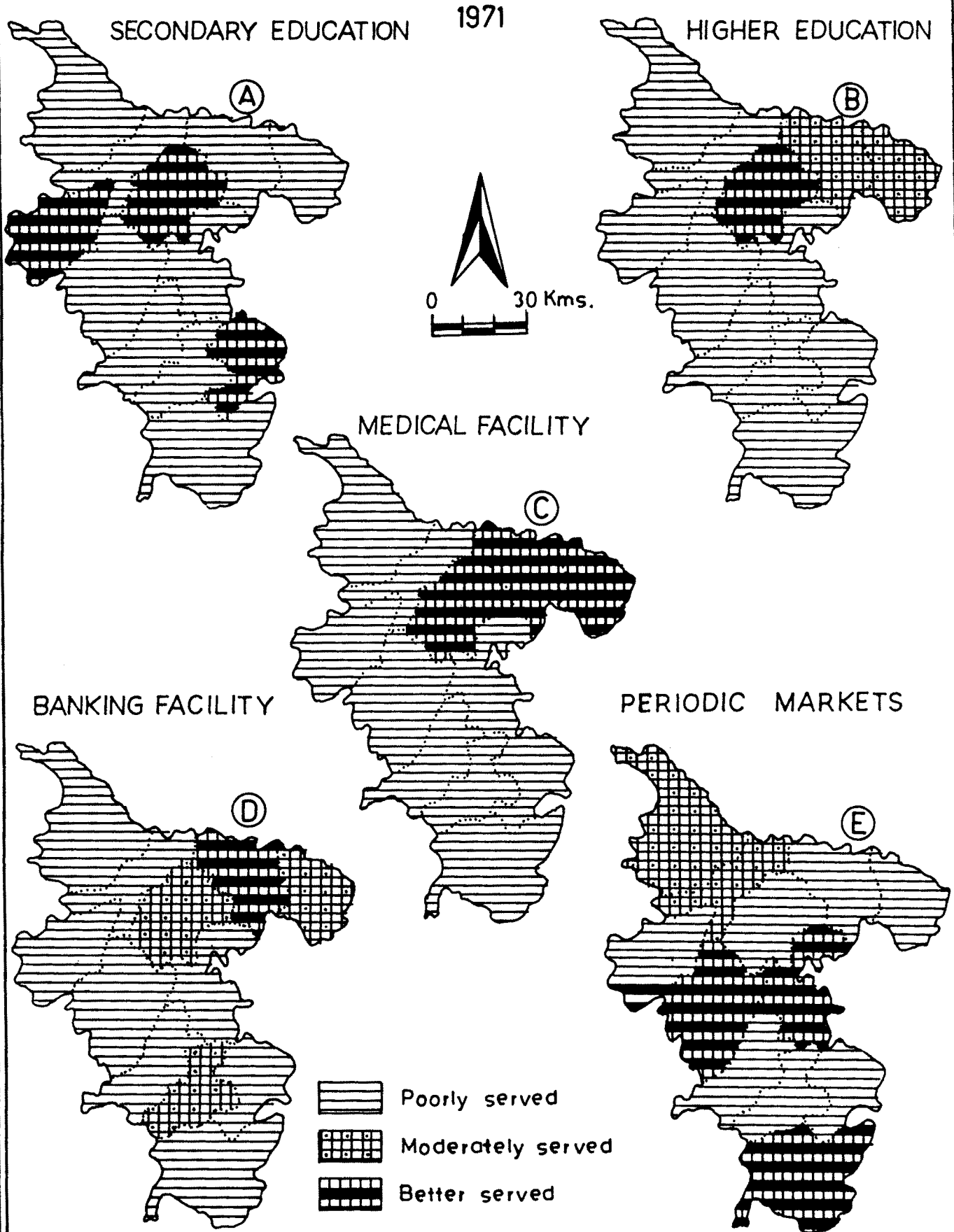


Fig. 7.1

So far as banking facilities are concerned Hatkanagale taluka is better served. Karveer, Shirol and Ajara talukas are moderately served and others are poorly served.

The weekly market function and its existing distance indicates that agriculturally less prosperous areas are better served by weekly market function as compared to more prosperous areas of the study region.

Considering the functional gaps in the study region, a modified hierarchic order of rural service centres has been suggested and few new rural service centres have been identified.

IDENTIFICATION OF NEW RURAL SERVICE CENTRES :

Growth centres are the regional focal points. They act as stimulants to the regional development process. These growth centres could be identified as future rural service centres. It can be done by studying their geographic position functional role, functional potential and the needs of the surrounding area.

In the present study it is proposed to add 24 new rural service centres in the different parts of the study region. More attention has been given to hilly areas which are poorly served in the existing hierarchy.

In the existing hierarchy Kolhapur is the highest order centre followed by Ichalkaranji, Jaysingpur, Vadgaon, Kurundwad and Gadhinglaj. It means only five rural service

centres of 3rd order are serving the entire region. Hence it is proposed that following rural service centres of second order should be elevated to 3rd order by adding few higher order functions to their existing functional capacity. It is proposed to elevate Malkapur, Gargoti, Chandgad and Radhanagari rural service centres to next higher order. Further it is felt that the status of ^{the} following 1st order rural service centres should be elevated to second order - Satve, Kumbhoj Rendal, Nandani, Chikhali (K), Siddenerli, Mahagaon, Mangaon and Bambavade.

The proposed elevation of hierarchic order of rural service centres and addition of new rural service centres will certainly provide efficiently the basic and essential services to rural masses of the study region. The figure 7.2 indicates the proposed hierarchy of rural service centres in the study region.

It is felt that the southern part of Kolhapur district is mainly served by Gadhinglaj centre. Hence it is proposed to have five class order of hierarchy in the study region, in which the following two rural service centres namely Gadhinglaj and Ichalkaranji are to be elevated to the 4th order and Kolhapur to be put up in the 5th order. Table No. 7-II gives the distribution of rural service centres in the proposed hierarchic class order.

KOLHAPUR DISTRICT
PROPOSED HIERARCHY OF RURAL SERVICE CENTRES

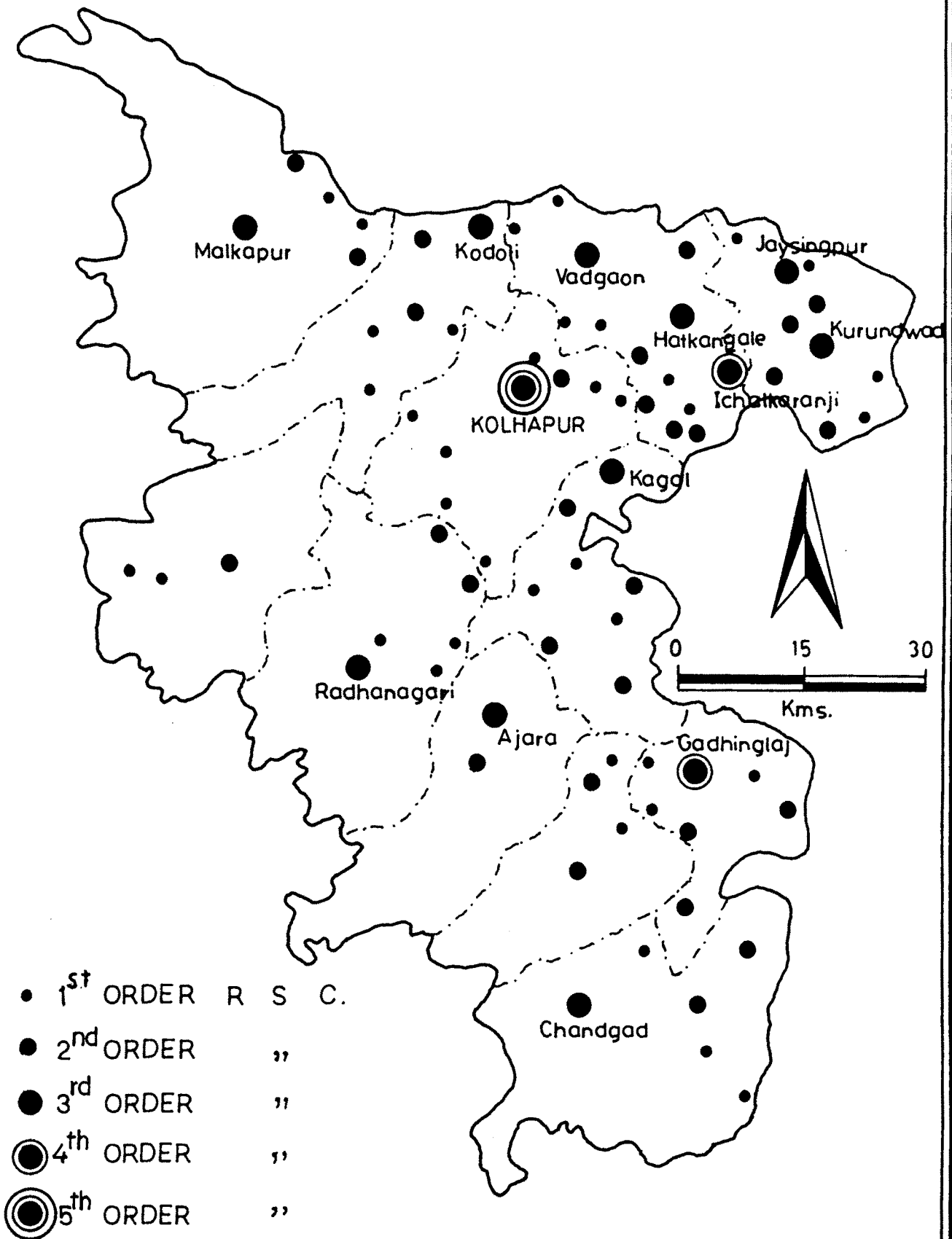


Fig. 7-2

In the proposed hierarchy 24 new growth points have been suggested and the services provided at these places should include health facility, P and T office, weekly market, high school and daily necessity shop.

Provision of higher education facility should be at a distance of 25 km. and better medical facilities should be provided at a distance of 50 km. The regulated sub-market yard should be located at a distance of 60 km. at highly accessible places; so that the collection and marketing of agricultural produce can be operated efficiently. All these all facilities should be provided at 3rd and 4th order service centres.

If all these facilities are provided at the various class order service centres, they will certainly serve the entire region very efficiently.

REFERENCES

1. Bhat L.S. " A regional planning model in the context of national planning in India", Readings on micro-level planning and rural growth centres N.I.C.D. Publication, Hyderabad (1972) pp. 295 - 302.
2. Christaller W. " The Central places of Southern Germany " by C.W. Baskin, Prentice Hall (1966)
3. Deshmukh P.W. " A Study of Central Places in Upper Krishna Basin", Ph.D. thesis (1979) pp. 280 - 292.
4. Hagerstrand T " The propagation of innovation Waves" Lund Studies in Geography, ser. B. 4.
5. Hirschman A.O. " The Strategy of Economic Development" New Haven (1958).
6. Misra R.P. " Regional Planning , Concepts, Techniques Policies and Case Studies" (edited) Mysore Univ. Publi. (1969).
7. Sen L.K. " Planning Practices in the context of Location theories " Published in Readings on Microlevel planning and rural growth centres. N.I.C.D. Hyderabad (1972), pp. 218 - 219.
8. Sundaram K.V. " Service centres and community of interest Areas " Urban system and rural development Part - I R.P. Mishra Mysore Univ. (1972).

T A B L E - 7-I

FUNCTIONAL DEFICIENCY AREAS

FUNCTIONAL SCORES FOR HIGH SCHOOL, HIGHER EDUCATION
NUMBER OF DOCTORS, BANKING AND WEEKLY MARKETS.
FUNCTIONS BY POPULATION AS UNIT.

Sr. No.	Name of Tehsil	High School	Higher Education.	No. of doctors	Banks	Weekly Markets
1.	Karveer	+ 1.07	+ 6.07	+ 16.10	+ 1.19	- 21.10
2.	Panhala	- 8.29	+ 0.23	- 10.19	- 5.75	+ 2.90
3.	Hatkanagale	- 8.93	- 1.63	+ 6.70	+ 8.29	- 4.50
4.	Shirol	- 5.15	+ 0.34	+ 12.57	+ 2.20	- 7.50
5.	Kagal	- 2.56	- 1.32	- 13.76	- 1.37	+ 5.19
6.	Gadhinglaj	+ 0.97	- 0.28	- 11.60	- 3.01	- 4.48
7.	Chandgad	- 1.05	- 0.93	- 11.11	- 2.60	+ 5.36
8.	Ajara	- 2.84	- 0.70	- 7.74	+ 0.99	+ 2.74
9.	Bhudargad	- 2.99	0.78	- 10.38	- 3.56	- 1.41
10.	Radhanagari	- 1.53	- 1.03	- 9.67	- 1.38	+ 3.49
11.	Bawda	+ 3.52	-0.55	- 10.27	- 3.78	+ 3.69
12.	Shahuwadi	- 4.97	- 0.99	- 11.27	- 3.07	+ 1.84

T A B L E - 7-IIPROPOSED HIERARCHY OF RURAL SERVICE CENTRES5th ORDER RURAL SERVICE CENTRES :

Kolhapur

4th ORDER RURAL SERVICE CENTRES :

Gadhinglaj, Ichalkaranji

3rd ORDER RURAL SERVICE CENTRES :

Jaysingpur, Kurundwad, Vadgaon, Hatkanagale, Kodoli,
Kagal, Malkapur, Gargoti, Chandgad and Radhanagari.

2nd ORDER RURAL SERVICE CENTRES :

Hupari, Murgud, Ajara, Panhala, Halkarni, Uttur, Shirol,li,
Rukadi, Kapashi (K), Gandhinagar, Rashivade, Dattawad,
Walve, Mahagaon, Gagan Bawda, P. Kodoli, Nesari, Kowad,
Lat, Satve, Kumbhoj, Rendal, Nandani, Chikhali (K),
Siddenerli, Shengaon, Mangaon and Bambavade.

1st ORDER RURAL SERVICE CENTRES :

Pargaon, Turkewadi, Kale, Herle, Sawarde, Kapashi, Kotoli
Kadgaon, Nool (K), Beed, Hamidwada, Hasur, Mudshingi,
Sawarde (BK), Sangaon, Bhadwan, Umbarde, Maakave, Vadnage,
Vasagade, Sangrul, Nigave (K), Ghunaki, Shirol,li, Mangaon,
(T), Kabnoor, Rui, Alas, Udagaon, Danoli, Takali, Tarle(K),
Turambe, Porle, Kaulage, Adkur, Tudiye, Bhairewadi,
Sarud, Bhedasgaon, Madilage and Kasur.