CONCLUSION

C O N C L U S I O N

The geographical studies of the location and use of service facilities have been related to the distribution of rural service centres and central place theory which in turn refers to an essentially economic system of supply and demand.

More often, the identification of rural service centres is based on general observation. In the present study author has evolved a method, for the identification of rural service centres, which is suitable for identifying rural service centres in underdeveloped areas.

The study of rural service centres in the region indicates that, the physical, social, economic and political factors play important role in distribution and growth of rural service centres. In ancient period when economy was dominated by agricultural activity, most of the rural service centres were developed as places of agricultural surpluses. Most of the ancient rural service centres were developed in river valleys and on the fertile lands. During the medieval period, with the introduction of coin and trade, the mobility of the people has increased. Trade and transport these two factors played important role in growth and evolution of rural service centres during the medieval period.

In the modern times development of agriculture and irrigation, growth of population, development of transport,

industries and communication have played very dominant role in developing several rural service centres.

The distribution of rural service centres is influenced by levels of economic development, density of population and physiography of the area. The development of road transportation has a greater impact on developing uniform and neared to uniform pattern of rural service centres in the area. In the hilly areas the spacing between rural service centres is more as compared to plain fertile areas and hilly areas have small size rural service centres as compared to plain fertile areas.

The occupational characteristics indicate that, small size rural service centres are dominated by agricultural activities, medium size rural service centres by trade and commerce, other services and agricultural activities. The large size centres show a dominance of trade and commerce, other services, transport, storeage, communication and industrial activities.

Functional association indicates that, small size rural service centres have association of very essential services and daily necessity goods. Medium size rural service centres have association of few more services and provision of essential goods of different kinds. Large size places have higher facilities and services.

The centrality of rural service centres and their hierarchic distribution clearly indicates that, Kolhapur is the largest place with a higher functional importance. Other places like Ichalkaranji, Jaysingpur, Vadgaon, Kurundwad, and Gadhinglaj have less functional importance as compared to that of Kolhapur. Most of the rural service centres in hilly area are of lower order. Higher order rural service centres are concentrated in the plain fertile region covering Kagal, Karveer, Hatkanagale and Shirol talukas.

The service areas of the rural service centres for the different orders of hierarchy indicate that, lower order rural service centres of hilly region serve more area, more settlements and less population while the lower order places in plain fertile area serve less settlements, less area and more population. Kolhapur and Gadhinglaj, these two places serve very high proportion of the area, population and settlements as compared to other higher order places.

In the context of regional planning when new functions or services are proposed, the location of such functions or services is a very important factor. A perfect location of a new function of service will start a chain of development in the entire region. The proposed hierarchy of rural service centres will certainly serve the entire region efficiently.