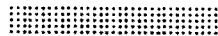C H A P T E R [I]

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

1.1.0   INTRODUCTION

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C H A P T E R [I]

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

1.1.0 INTRODUCTION :

Population, in general sense, is defined as any finite or infinite collection of individual objects. But in the content of Geography it refers specifically to a congregation of human individuals. Though geography has never been completely discovered from the consideration of population intensive, specialised and systematically organized study by the geographers began only recently with the presidential address of Trewartha[1].

The spatial extent or area of a region is the base to which a geographer refers the facts of his population study. This area alongwith its resources provides the stage which guides the history of the region, the growth of population, the present distribution and pressure of population, population migration and other geographical characteristics of the region.

Population study is a part and parcel in any regional study, because population is the great resource among all the resources.The differential in economy of the region is the combined result of natural environment, its resources and the existing demographic structure of the region. It is indeed through analysis of population features that an application of regional differences can be fully made[2]. An analysis of various aspects of population i.e. growth, distribution, density, sex-ratio, literacy, occupational structure and

urbanisation etc. provide a clear understanding of the problems oriented in the region which must be taken for rational, regional and inter-regional planning.

Population differs from area to area not only in terms of their number, but also in terms of all their biological, socio-economic, cultural and dynamic aspects[3]. The determinents of population characteristics have spatial variation. Moreover, population in its varied aspects exerts a powerful influence in evolving the total character of an area. It is a pivoted element in geography around which all other phenomena are oriented[4]. The study of population, as a specific aspect of population geography, is basically concerned with the spetio-temporal variations in different aspects of population. This type of study is helpful to suggest comprehensive planning for a region. Keeping the above view in mind, the author has selected the Maharashtra State as a study unit. It is also a substantial reason to undertake 'Maharashtra State' as a study region was the familiarity and attachment of the author with it since long.

1.2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

Major objectives of the present work is to study growth and distribution of population, literacy and urbanisation in the State of Maharashtra which is a meso region. Besides the following are the chief objectives of the present study :

[1]   to analyse the spatial pattern of distribution of total and rural population,

[2]   to identify the changes in distributional pattern of population,

[3]   to analyse the distributional pattern of agricultural and physiological densities,

[4]   to analyse the concentration of population in relation to area,

[5]   to analyse the spatial pattern of distribution of sex-ratio.

[6]   to identify the changes in distribution of sex-ratio,

[7]   to analyse the different components of sex-ratio,

[8]   to study the growth of total and rural population,

[9]   to highlight the changes in birth and death rates,

[10]   to study the growth of literacy.

[11]   to examine the spatial variation in male - female and rural - urban literacy,

[12]   to identify the spatial patterns of literacy,

[13]   to study the growth of urban population,

[14]   to examine the spatial variation in growth of urban population,

[15]   to analyse the spatial pattern of distribution of urban population,

[16]   to study the changes in concentration of urban population.

[17]   to identify and analyse the level of urbanisation.

1.3.0 SOURCE OF DATA AND INFORMATION :

The present study is entirely based on secondary data. Therefore, the regarded data has been collected from the following three main sources :

[i]   Census reports published by Government of India.

[ii]   Vital Statistics,

[iii]   Miscellaneous   sources,   published   sources   and
        unpublished sources.

        Besides above, few data and information have been
taken from the certain books and journals that have been
mentioned under the heading of 'Bibliography'.

1.4.0   **METHODOLOGY** :

        In the present study district has been taken as a
basic unit of investigation for the analysis of distribution
of population crude density is calculated for the year 1981
and   1991,   while   for   the   analysis   of   agricultural   and
physiological   densities   year   1991   is   taken   into
consideration. Sex-ratio have been worked out for literates,
illiterates,   working   and   non-working,   rural   and   urban
population.

        The growth of population is measured by using the
formula :

$$v = \frac{P2 - P1}{P1} \times 100$$

Where,

        v = is the growth of population in percent,

        P2 = is the population in the latest period,

        P1 = is the population in the past.

Then, on the basis of growth of population, the State has
been divided into five groups i.e. very high, high, moderate,
low and very low.

For the analysis of literacy according to total, male, female, rural, urban, collected data have been converted into percentage values and State has been divided into five distingwishable groups. However for the purpose of analysis of pattern of literacy location quotient is used and with the help of location quotients values state has been divided into five literacy patterns i.e. very high, high, moderate, low and very low. The correlationship between differential in male – female literacy and total literacy is tested by the method of Pearson's Product moment coefficient of correlation. The correlationship between literacy and urbanisation is also tested by the same method.

For the analysis of growth of urban population, the period 1901 – 1991 is selected by taking State as a whole while for the analysis of spatial variation in growth of urban population & for the distribution of urban population the period 1981-1991 is considered by selecting district as a study unit. Level of urbanisation in the State is identified by using composite index for the data of 1991. For that purpose following four indicators have been used.

[i]   percentage of urban population to total population.

[ii]   density of urban population over the entire area,

[iii]   density of towns per 1,000 km^2, and

[iv]   percentage of urban population residing in the towns with a population of 20,000+.

Number of choropleth maps are prepared for supporting the analysis of selected aspects of population. Few graphs

have been prepared for showing the concentration of population and growth of population.

1.5.0   **WORK DONE SO FAR** :

Although, population studies in geography is a recent trend, very few geographers have been made an attempt to study the various aspects of population together at State level[5]. Many geographers have been considered single aspect of population at State level in their investigation[6]. In the State of Maharashtra few geographers have been made an attempt to study the population by selecting micro region[7]. However, no geographer has yet been made an attempt to study the combined aspects of population of Maharashtra. From this point of view this is the pioneer work.

1.6.0   **DESIGN OF THE STUDY** :

The ordering of chapters represents a flow of chart of ideas which they contain in detail. Each and every chapter is interlinked and develops a theme which leads directly to the materials in all subsequent sections. The present study has been divided into seven chapters. The introductory chapter is devoted to the introduction, objectives of the study, source of data and information, methodology adopted in the present analysis, work done so far and design of the study.

The second chapter, consists of geographical setting of Maharashtra. In this chapter there are three sections – Physical setting, Economic setting and Population characteristics. The physical description largely includes

physiography, drainage, climate, soil types, vegetation while economic setting examines the characteristcis of land utilization, agriculture, irrigation, industry, minerals and transport network. Third section deals with the salient characteristics of some of the aspects of population in Maharashtra with comparison to India.

The third chapter deals with the analysis of the spatial pattern of distribution of total and rural population in 1981 and 1991, analysis of distribution of agricultural and physiological densities in 1991 and analysis of spatial pattern of sex-ratio in different components i.e. sex-ratio among the literates, illiterates, workers, non-workers, urban and rural population.

Fourth chapter analyses the growth of population since 1901 taking into consideration State as a whole. Analysis of growth of population at district level for the period 1981 - 1991 has been done in this chapter.

Growth of literacy since 1951, spatial variation in male - female literacy, rural - urban literacy and spatial pattern of literacy in 1991 constitute the subject matter of the chapter Fifth.

In the sixth chapter growth and distribution of urban population and level of urbanisation in the State have been analysed.

Summary and conclusion of the entire study have been given in the seventh chapter. With the mention of selected bibliography the work ends.

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