



4.1 While summarizing the various aspects of urban influence one may come to the conclusion that the empirical methods are more suitable and realistic than the mathematical and theoretical methods in demarcating the sphere of influence of individual urban centre. In the present study the degree of influence of Kolhapur city has been attempted by both, the theoretical and empirical methods.

4.2 The application of V.L.S. Prakash Rao's method for the calculation of degree of influence of Kolhapur city reveals that Kolhapur city serves the inter-Kolhapur district, some part of Karnataka state and partially the parts of the districts of Satara and Sangli. Nearly 18 small and medium size urban centres are served by Kolhapur city among them Ichalkaranji (I), Karad (II), Jaysingpur (III), Gadhinglaj (III), Ashta (III), Islampur (III), Vita (III), Tasgaon (III), Kagal (IV), are most important.

The people of these urban centres visit Kolhapur city for higher order of goods and services. The degree of urban influence calculated by Rao's theoretical method reveals the fact that the dominance of Kolhapur city is extended over 64.42 sq.kms range.

4.3 Another theoretical method, the breaking point model when applied to know the trading area of Kolhapur city with

reference to other important adjacent towns like Karad, Islampur, Miraj, Ichalkaranji, Belgaum and Ratnagiri, clearly indicates that the trade area has expanded to a greater extent along the National Highway No.4 on which the urban centres like Karad and Belgaum are located. Similarly the trade area is also spread considerably on the state highway which connects Ratnagiri and Miraj. Further it is noted that Ratnagiri town of Konkan region does not come within the gravitational pull of Kolhapur, where as Miraj town of Sangli district, Karad town of Satara district, Belgaum city of Karnataka state, have fallen under the domain of Kolhapur city.

4.4 Empirically demarcated limits of sphere of influence for various parameters have great variations in size, range, population served and area served. The empirical methods include both the city services (OF) and countryside services (IF). The composite sphere of influence is depicted in Fig.4.1.

OF/1 Medical service zone :

Kolhapur attracted the outdoor patients from distant places. The data collected indicates that 55 to 60 kms distance has been travelled by the medical facility users. It is worth-mentioning that the entire Karvir taluka is under the dominance of Kolhapur city. For the higher order medical facilities and

DELIMITATION OF COMPOSITE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE ●●●

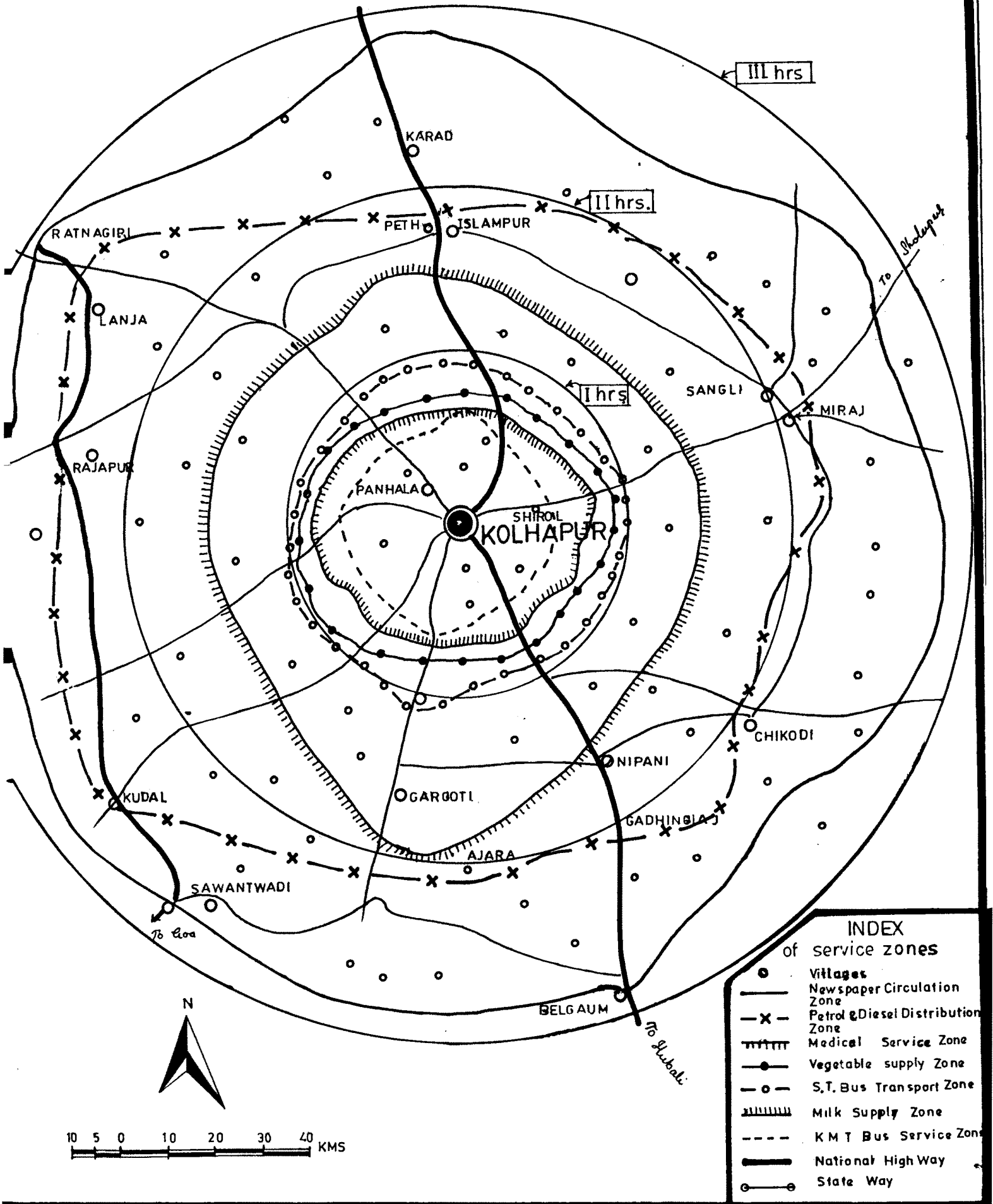


FIG. 4.1

specialized medical services, patients from Chandgad taluka, Budhargad taluka, Radhanagari taluka have preferred to travel the distance of 80 kms. By and large the medical service zone of Kolhapur city extends at the range of 60 kms that is the distance of about 2 hours bus journey.

OF/2;/IF/1 Kolhapur Municipal Transport

Bus Service Zone :

City bus transport of Kolhapur play a very important role in the interaction between city and its region. Nearly 55 villages in the environs of Kolhapur city are well connected to the city centre. Kini village which is 22 kms away from the city comes under the Kolhapur Municipal Transport bus catchment area. It is observed that the average distance covered by city bus transport is about 20 to 22 kms. The K.M.T. bus transport service is very important for the commuters for travelling to their work places.

OF/3;/IF/2 State Transport Bus Service :

Kolhapur plays a pivotal role in the S.T. bus service, as it is located on the boundary of two distinct physiography region i.e. Konkan, the low lands, and pleateau, the high lands. Kolhapur is well connected with the other towns of the state. However the S.T. buses departing to nearby villages after 8.30 p.m. and have the night halt at the villages only are considered

for the delimitation of influence. The collected data of such localities indicate that as many as 133 villages are spread at an average distance of 28 kms from the city. The interviews with the commuters state that most of the people visit the city in the morning for their work recreation or attending social functions and return to their villages by night halt buses. The S.T. bus service zone has a range of 50 kms from the city.

OF/4 Shivaji University Catchment Area :

Kolhapur city is the headquarter of Shivaji University. The colleges in the district of Kolhapur, Solapur, Sangli and Satara are affiliated to this University. It is noted that the largest area of influence served by Kolhapur city is the catchment area of Shivaji University. On an average an area of 200 kms radius from Kolhapur is served by this higher educational institute. In addition to this, some students from adjacent states of Karnataka and Goa are also attracted to this educational centre.

OF/5 Newspaper Circulation zone :

Enquiry about the newspaper circulation from Kolhapur city reveals that Daily Pudhari and Sakal have an effective circulation range of 100 kms and it includes Southern Maharashtra region and Northern part of Karnataka State. This is

the medium through which the leadership of city in the 'Umland' develops. It is a socio-cultural, economic link between the city and its region.

OF/6 Petrol and Diesel Distribution zone :

Kolhapur, being an important railway station/terminus plays a significant role as a centre of petrol and diesel collection/redistribution. It supplies the petrol and diesel to certain Konkan localities like Chiplun, Khed, Sawantwadi, which are 100 to 150 kms away from Kolhapur city. All the taluka headquarters and small urban centres within the distance of 70 to 80 kms receive petrol and diesel supply from Kolhapur city. Thus, it is observed that the area within 100 km radius from Kolhapur city is the dependant area of petrol and diesel.

OF/7 Kolhapur District Co-operative

Bank Service zone :

Entire Kolhapur district is the service area of this banking facilities. The Kolhapur District Central Co-operative Bank has its head office in Kolhapur city having about 4000 shareholders. This bank has as many as 130 branches spread all over the district. It is noted that 50 kms is the range of the Kolhapur District Co-operative Bank service.

IF/3 Milk Supply zone :

The milk supply to the city population is another important countryside service. The information pertaining to the milk supply area and the related statistical data indicates that milk is supplied by the farmers, milkmen and traders from the nearby villages located at the range of 20 to 25 kms from the city. This zone corresponds to the boundary of vegetable supply zone. The co-operative milk societies at the taluka headquarters like Kagal, Budhargad, Radhanagari, Shahuwadi, Bavada, Panhala, Hatkanangale and the societies at large size villages supply milk to the city population. Trucks, milkvans and motor buses are the important means of milk transport which collect the milk from 25 kms range. However, bicycles are the common vehicles within the distance of 10 to 15 kms from the city. The zone, thus, extents about 20 to 25 kms from the city.

IF/4 Vegetable Supply zone :

Vegetable to the city are supplied by the immediate area surrounding the city. The city is a wholesale market for vegetable and fruits. Very big vegetable markets (daily markets) are located in different parts of the city. These are Kapiltirth vegetable market, Laximipuri vegetable market, Shivaji vegetable market, Shahupuri vegetable market, Rajaram-puri vegetable market, and Shahu Market Yard wholesale vegetable



market. All types of green vegetables including cabbage, calculi-flower, <sup>d</sup>lāys-finger, brinjal, tomato etc. are grown in the surrounding areas of Kolhapur, whereas coconuts, onion and potato etc. have been transported to the Kolhapur market from distant places like Belgaum, Lonand and Ratnagiri etc. The use of bullock-carts and three wheelers is common, in the vegetable supply, in case of the places which are within the range of 10 to 15 kms. The motor, trucks and tempos are commonly collecting the vegetable from the villages within the range of 30 kms and supplies the vegetables to the city population. The zone, thus, extends to 22 to 25 kilometers which is the major vegetable supply zone to Kolhapur city.

-----