
(p)URBAN HIERARCHY - POPULATION BASE 1981(p)

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3.1 INTRODUCTION :

There is no universally accepted definition of urbanisation. Different countries adopt different criteria for defining urbanisation or urban settlement. The census authorities of India have adopted the following criteria and definitions for identifying the urban settlement. The urban places are defined when -

- i) A minimum population of 5000,
- ii) At least 75 percent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, and
- iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq.kms.

Besides, all other places which satisfied the following criteria.

A place with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee are also considered as urban settlements.

The above mentioned concepts adopted in 1951 and has been continued for 1991 census also. In Maharashtra the number of towns in 1951 was 383 which was reduced to 266 in 1961, this decrease was a universal phenomena, since there was a change in the definition of town. In the next decade (1971) the number was increased to 289. Finally, in 1981 census, in Maharashtra as many as 307 places are qualified as urban centres. The urban centres in Maharashtra have located at various geographical

locations. These centres have different population size, various functional magnitude, different economic base and different physical, economical and social differentiations.

3.2 CENSUS HIERARCHIC ORDERS OF TOWNS :

For the purpose of comprehensive analysis of varied demographic characteristics, the census authorities have classified the towns of Maharashtra into six distinct classes which are based upon population size.

Table 3.1 : Maharashtra urban hierarchy - population base 1981.

Sr. No.	Class	Urban population	Number of towns
1	I	100,00 and above (Generally referred as city)	29
2	II	50,000 - 99,999	25
3	III	20,000 - 49,999	89
4	IV	10,000 - 19,999	100
5	V	5,000 - 9,999	48
6	VI	Less than 500	16
		Total	307

SOURCE : Census of India 1981, Series 12, Maharashtra Part II a, General Population Tables.

When the towns of the Maharashtra have been arranged according to their population size, it shows that the Greater Bombay is the first ranking city with 8,243,405 population followed by Nagpur (1,219,461), Pune (1,203,351), Solapur (514,860), Kolhapur (340,625), Thane (309,897), Aurangabad (261,404) and Davalmeti town in Nagpur district rank least with 1,771, population in Maharashtra.

According to 1981 census, the total number of urban centres was 307. Out of these class I cities is 71.57 percent, class II 29 (7.8 p.c.), class III 83 (11.90 p.c.), class IV 100 (6.70 p.c.), class V 48 (1.76 p.c.), and class VI 16 (0.25 p.c.).

3.3 THREE TIER HIERARCHIC ORDERS OF TOWNS :

Using the census classification of the towns a new three fold town categories are designed for the better understanding of the towns and their related aspects. The towns of the Maharashtra are hereby classified into three classes based on population size. For example, the big towns, the medium towns and the small towns.

When all the urban centres of the state have studied on the basis of their population size (1981), they have been categorised into three orders. There are as many as 54 urban centres are big towns, 189 medium towns, and 64 small towns.

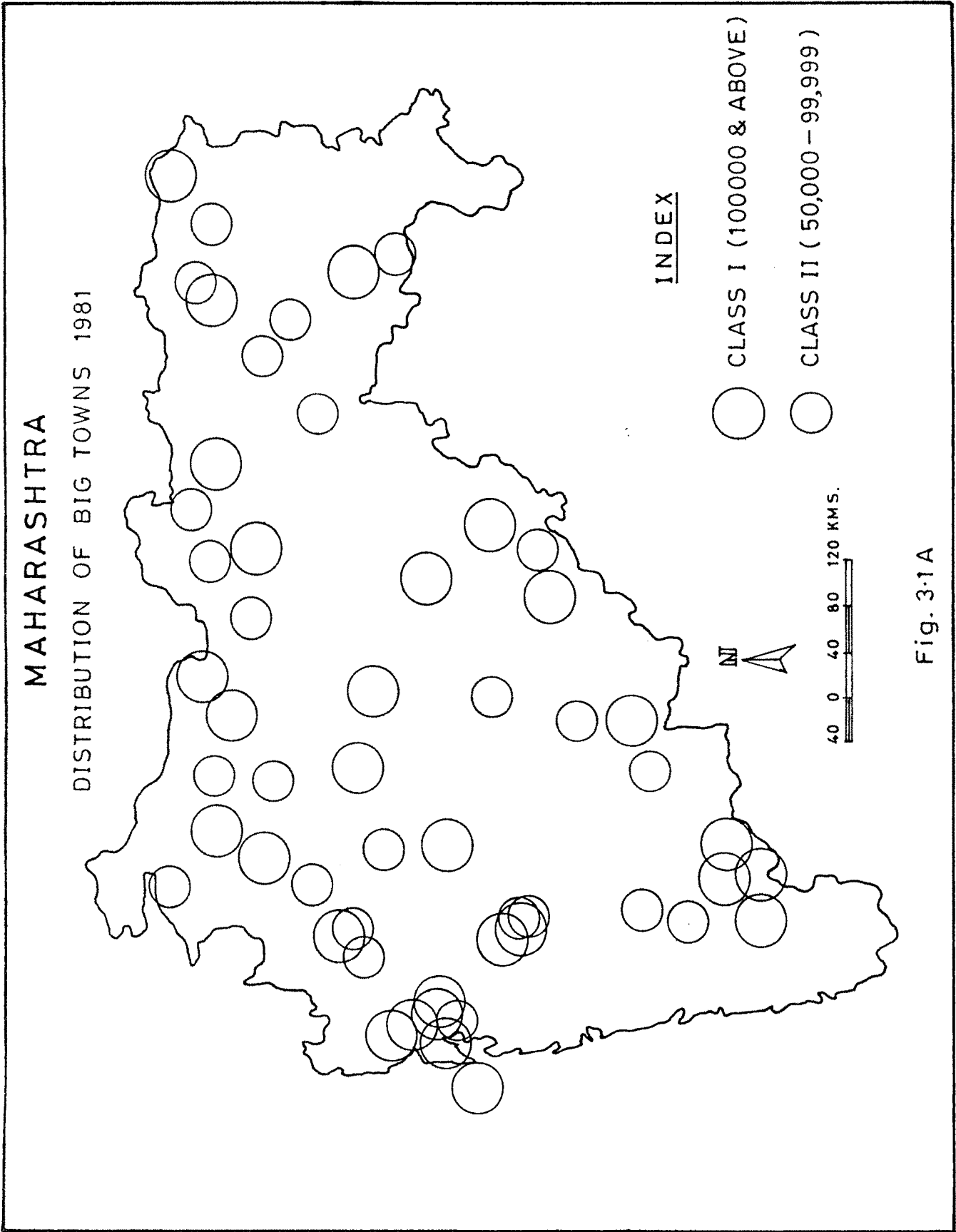
Table 3.2 : Maharashtra - Town categories (1981).

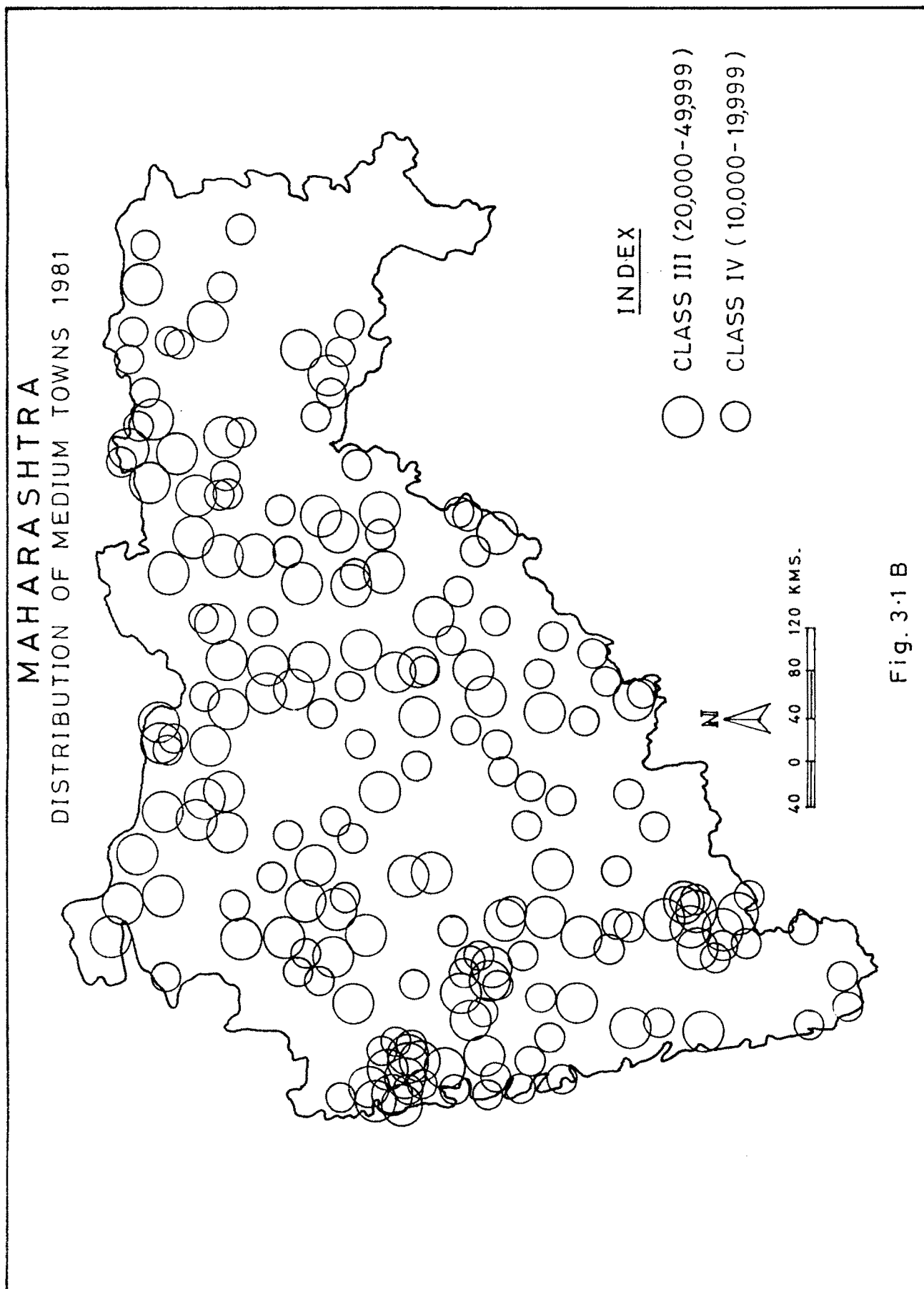
Sr. No.	Categories of towns	Census class of towns	Population size	No. of towns
1	Big Towns	I, II	50,000:- 100000 & above	54
2	Medium towns	III, IV	10,000 - 49,999	189
3	Small towns	V, VI	5,000 - 9,999	64
	<u>Total</u>			<u>307</u>

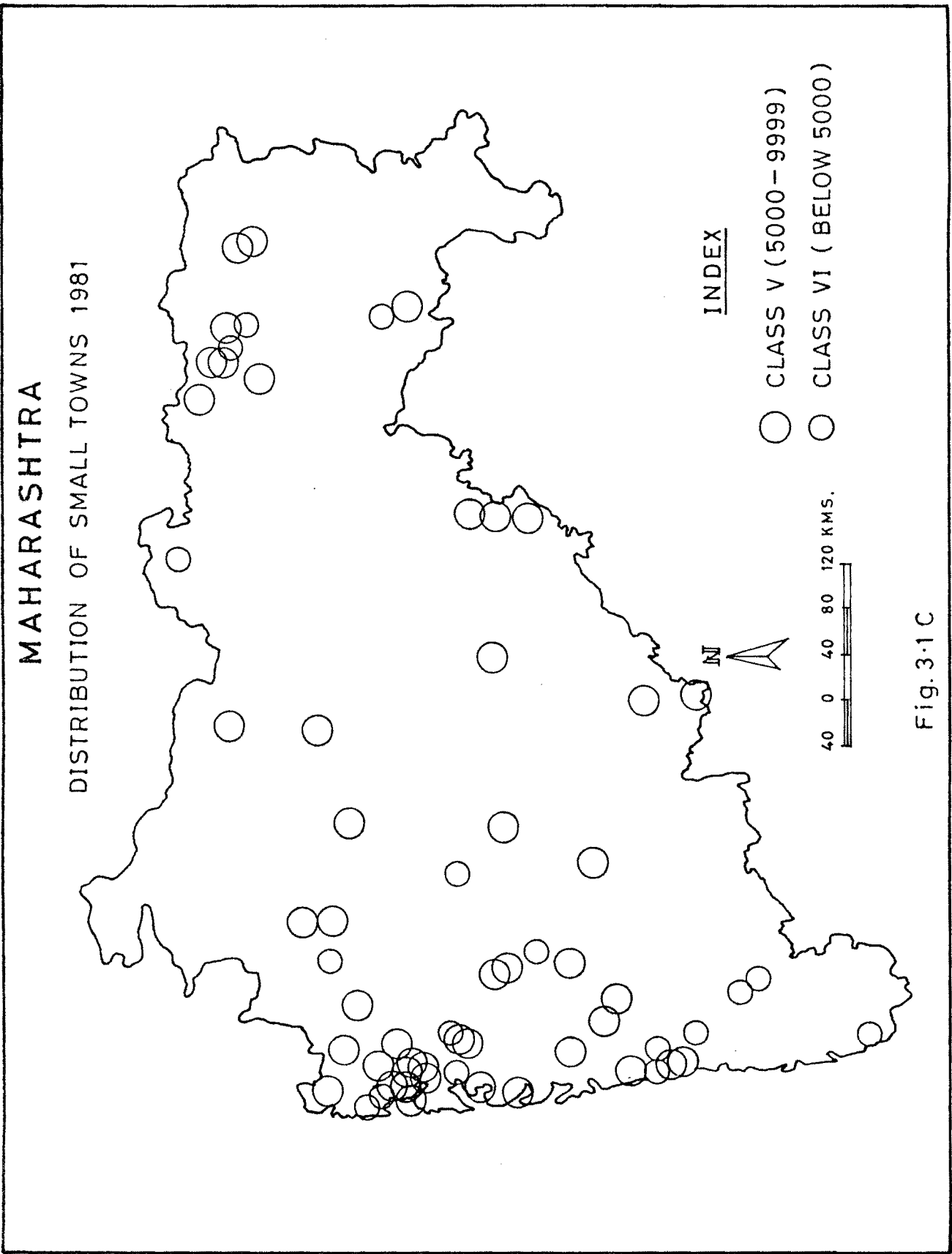
It is interesting to mention that the big towns have a share of 79.39 percent in the urban population of the state. Medium towns shares 18.60 percent of the state urban population. Only 2.01 percent urban population is living in small towns.

This clearly indicate that the big towns have greater dominance in the urban scenario of the state. Fig.3.1 A, B, and C represents the distribution of big towns, medium towns, and small towns respectively, for the year 1981.

A closer examination of the urbanisation at the regional level shows the wider disparity in the degree of urbanisation. The intra state urban disparity is presented in Table 3.3







**Table 3.3 : Maharashtra - Intra state urban
desp_earity, 1981.**

Sr. No.	Region	Number of urban centres	Level of Urbanisation
1	Bombay division	105	52.93
2	Poona division	74	25.54
3	Aurangabad divi- sion	53	18.31
4	Nagpur division	74	26.09
	Maharashtra	307	35.03

Table 3.3 clearly shows the imbalanced pattern of urbanisation in the state. The state as a whole has 35.03 percent level of urbanisation. The Bombay division has large number (105) of urban centres, and it has higher level of urbanisation (52.93). Aurangabad division shows the lowest number of urban centres (53) and also the lowest level of urbanisation (18.31). Poona and Nagpur divisions more or less even number of towns and degree of urbanisation.

3.4 URBAN PYRAMID 'K' VALUES - 1981 :

A basic generalization one can make that the number of towns/cities in successively larger size classes becomes progressively less. One way of depicting this arrangement is the urban pyramid. Here an attempt has been made to identified the hierarchic orders of urban centres, their numbers, different order and

the inter order ratio (K-values) using 1981 population data. The towns of the Maharashtra have been classified into different hierarchic orders. Table 3.4 shows urban pyramid and its components.

Table 3.4 : Maharashtra - Urban pyramid (K-values), 1981.

Sr. No.	Urban population	Orders	No. of Towns	K - values
1	1,500,000 and Above	I	1	
2	500,000 - 1,499,999	II	3	3
3	200,000 - 499,999	III	10	3.3
4	100,000 - 199,999	IV	15	1.5
5	50,000 - 99,999	V	25	1.6
6	20,000 - 49,999	VI	89	3.5
7	Less than 20,000	VII	164	1.8
	<u>Total</u>		<u>307</u>	

The hierarchic arrangement based on population size for 1981 has been depicted in Fig.3.2. In this figure one can note that greater the size of the city, the lower the number of the cities in the size class. Thus, beginning with broad base made up of numerous small urban centres. The number of cities gradually lessens until there are relatively few cities in the highest size class. To extend this proposition a bit further then shows in Fig.3.2, at the very top of the urban pyramid would be a single

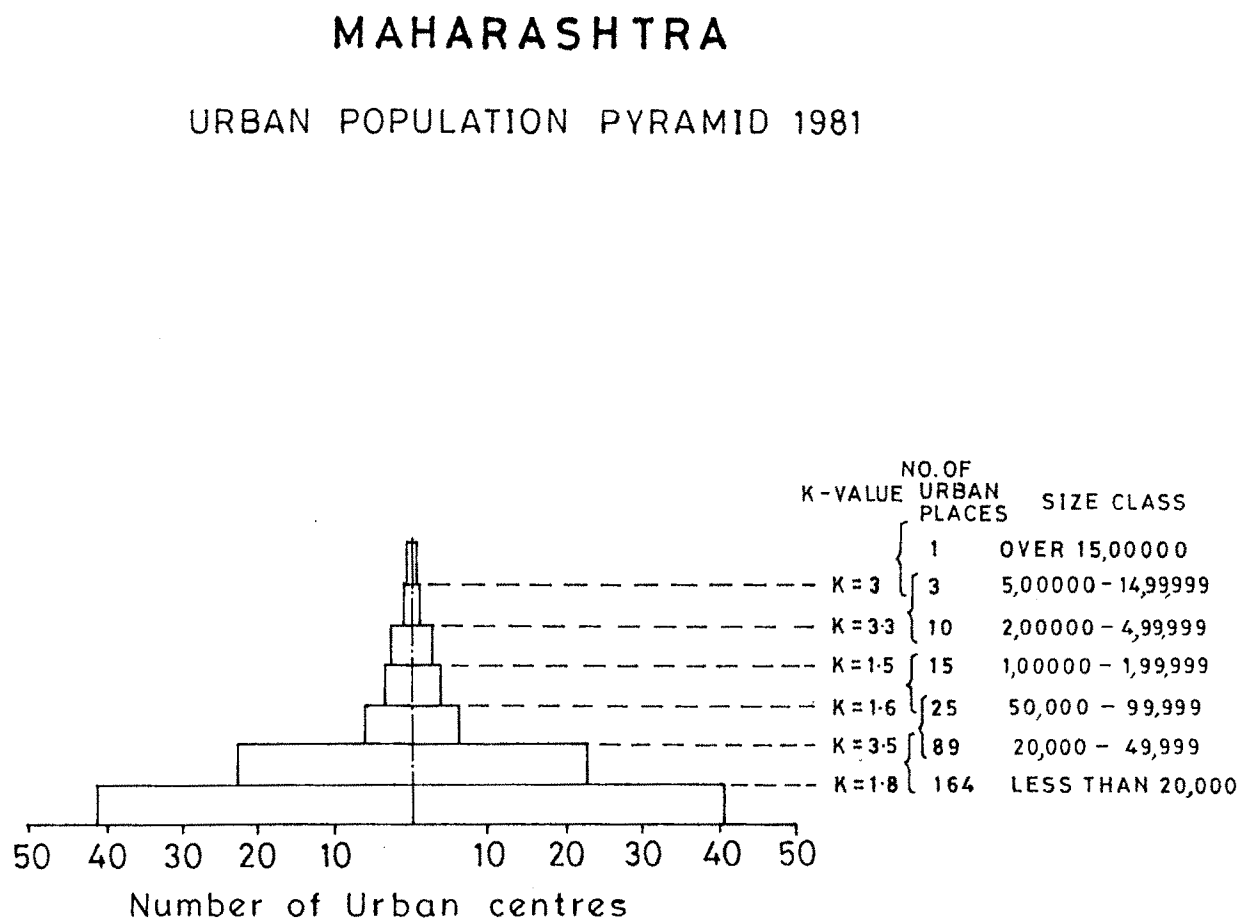


Fig.3.2 - URBAN POPULATION PYRAMID-1981 SOURCE BASED ON DATA IN MAHARASHTRA.CENSUS OF INDIA . CENSUS OF POPULATION 1981.

Fig. 3.2

urban centre, that by virtue of its large population. The city found at the peak of the urban pyramid has been turned the primate city. In the State of Maharashtra Bombay city appears at the top of the urban pyramid and became the primate city of the urban scenario of the region under study. It has 8,243,405 population in 1981.

The analysis of the orders and the numbers of towns, there it shows that Nagpur, Pune, and Solapur are second order urban centres of the region. Then ten cities namely Kolhapur, Thane, Aurangabad, Ulhasnagar, Nashik, Amravati, Malegaon, Akola, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Dhule are third order urban centres of the region.

The fourth and fifth categories of orders includes 15 and 25 urban centres respectively. 89 urban centres are included in sixth order. There are large number (164) of the towns included in the lowest (seventh) order of hierarchy.

The ratio in the number of urban places in two orders is known as 'K' values. The 'K' values for urban places in different hierarchic orders have been worked out and shown in Fig.3.2.

The first order Bombay city is the state capital and commercial capital of the country. The Nagpur and Pune, the second order centres, are the divisional headquarters, whereas, Solapur is the regional centre of multi-functional nuclei.

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