

URBAN HIERARCHY - AREA BASE 1981

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4.1 INTRODUCTION :

The people deciding and working in the town occupied, organise and utilise space on the earth surface. They have needs for space for different purposes and the space needed is devoted for different use. Not only are there different uses made of urban space, there are different magnitude of need for space for different uses. Further more there are regularities in the patterns of use of urban space and in the spatial organisation of urban space.

Every urban centre, big or small, occupies the geographical area. The physical location of urban centre has a greater bearing on its morphological characteristics. The nature of physical location of urban centres is well reflected in its physical growth that is the area spread. The area occupied by urban is intensively used for various purposes. Particularly the town occupied area has been used for residential, commercial, industrial, educational and other purposes. The urban area is some times used for private and public uses. The area under gardens, and parks, school and playgrounds, stediums, and swimming pool etc. are the public uses of urban space. The purpose of this chapter is to consider the valuable geographical area occupied by urban centres as a base for the establishment of hierarchy of towns of the Maharashtra State.

4.2 URBAN AREA IN MAHARASHTRA :

The census authorities have mention the area occupied by every town in the town directory. This area is the total geographical area under the jurisdiction of individual municipal corporation or municipal town. The given area is not fully developed. Some portion of the area is developed and some is undeveloped. The census figures of the town area is the total geographical area of that town and same is used as a single indicator for the purpose of identifying the hierarchical orders of the towns of the states. The 1981 census area figures have been considered to served the purpose.

4.3 AREA UNDER TOWNS :

The examination of the geographical area under different towns of Maharashtra shows variations. Generally large size towns occupy larger geographical area and as the size of the town decrease there is the tendency in the decrease of area. In 1981, the area under towns was 5887.80 km² in the state of Maharashtra.

The comparative study of area under towns in Maharashtra reveals that, Bombay city has the largest (603.00 km²) area and Jejuri town in Pune district has the lowest (0.39 km²) area.

There were as many as 307 urban centres in 1981 in the State of Maharashtra. All these urban centres have been arranged

in a decending order of the geographical area occupied by them, and they were classified into different groups of area.

4.4 HIERARCHY OF URBAN CENTRES

BASED ON AREA OCCUPIED-1981

Usually towns are ranked on the basis of their population size. However, here an attempt has been done to classified the towns of the Maharashtra State on the basis of the area occupied by them. Table 4.1 indicates the categories of area in km², orders of the towns and the numbers of the towns in various order in Maharashtra.

Table 4.1 : Maharashtra - Hierarchy of urban centres -
Based on area occupied, 1981.

Sr. No.	Area in km ²	Orders	No. of Towns
1	200 km ² and Above	I	02
2	100 - 199.00 km ²	II	03
3	60 - 99.99 "	III	08
4	40 - 59.99 "	IV	19
5	20 - 39.99 "	V	48
6	10 - 19.99 "	VI	78
7	Less than 10.00 km ²	VII	149
	Total		307

1) First order centres :

The first order centres namely Gr.Bombay and Nagpur have more than 200 km² area and hence they are at the peak of hierarchy of towns of Maharashtra. Fig.4.1 shows the hierarchy of urban centres based on area occupied 1981. Bombay is state capital city where as the Nagpur is a secondary capital city of the Maharashtra.

2) Second order centres :

The second order centres are Mahableshwar, Mangalvedhe and pune in Poona division. In this categories area occupied by urban centres ranges between 100 - 199.99 km².

3) Third order centres :

The towns like Mhasvad, Ashta, Sangola, Kolhapur, Pimpri-Chinchwad, and Shirur of Poona division and Chopda of Bombay division and Dharur of Aurangabad division includes in this categories of town order which have the area between 60 - 99.99 km².

4) Fourth order centres :

There are 19 urban centres included in the fourth order. Out of these 4 are located in Bombay division, 6 are in Poona division, and 8 are in Aurangabad division, and one in Nagpur division of the state.

MAHARASHTRA
HIERARCHY OF URBAN CENTRES BASED ON AREA OCCUPIED
1981

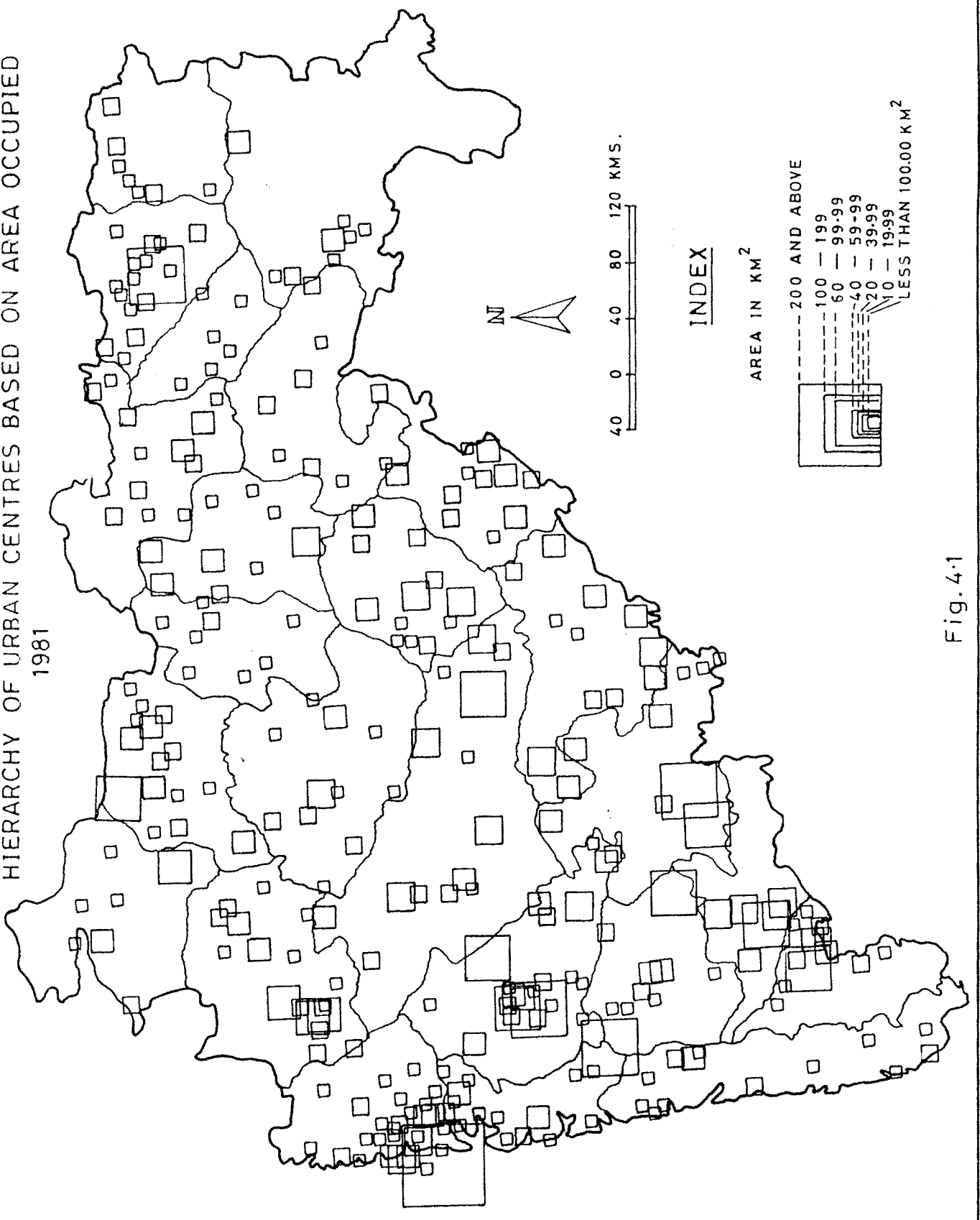


Fig. 4.1

5) Fifth order centres :

The towns having 20 - 39.99 km² area under their municipal limits have been categorised in fifth order towns. There are 48 such towns in the State of Maharashtra.

6) Sixth order centres :

Out of the 307 urban places of the state 78 places occupied the geographical area between 10 - 19.99 km² area.

7) Seventh order centres :

In this class of towns 149 centres have been included. They shows the area occupied by them is below 10.00 km². In fact these are very small urban centres of the state.

Out of the total seventh order centres 65 centres are located in Bombay division, 25 in Poona division, 16 in Aurangabad division, and 43 in Nagpur division of the state.

The comparative analysis of the orders of the urban centres and the area occupied by them clearly indicate that the lower order centres have smaller area and the higher order towns have large area. Hence, there is a positive correlation between the orders of the towns and the area occupied by them.

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