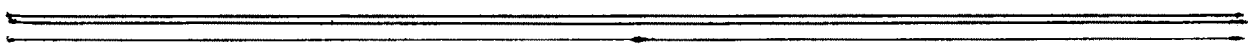




(P)

CONCLUSION

(P)



C O N C L U S I O N S

Urbanisation is a process which is related to the economic growth, development of transport, resource potentials, rate of immigration and development of basic activities. It is normally observed that economic prosperity of the region and urban growth go hand in hand.

A careful and systematic study of the process of urbanisation and related factors is essential in understanding the city system. Cities have an important role to play in the life of people living in that area, because their economic and social set up plays very important role in the overall development of a region. Urban growth is the most important indicator of the development of any region. Exchange of goods, development of transport and communication network and overall economic conditions also help in the growth of urbanisation.

Maharashtra state is regarded as the most urbanised state in the country. It has both highly industrialized developed area and extremely poor regions with agrarian base. The proportion of urban population in our country has changed from 10.85 percent to 25.72 percent in last ninety years, while in Maharashtra, it has changed from 16.59 percent to 38.73 percent. When we look into the locational and spatial pattern of urbanisation in Maharashtra, then we find that the number of towns has not increased much in proportion to the actual increase in urban population. It means

growth of urbanisation in Maharashtra is not only due to increase in number of towns, but mainly because of the growth of existing urban centres. In Maharashtra, the rate of growth of urbanisation has been accelerated after the independence. It means the development of industries, agriculture, transport and communication must have played crucial role in the accelerating the rate of urbanisation.

The State of Maharashtra is the third largest state in the area and population in the country. Economically, it is the most prospering in the serial state of India with large power and mineral resource potentials. Most of the districts of the state are dominated by agricultural economy. This mix character of industry and agriculture has developed industrial towns, trade centres, commercial centres, administrative towns, market towns and transport centres in the area. The state has highest rate of urbanisation in the country.

The analysis of post independence trends of urbanisation and patterns of urban growth clearly indicates that the general growth of population in Maharashtra indicates a higher trend. Regarding urbanisation and urban growth, one observes that the urban growth of Maharashtra is increasing in the every successive decade. One observation must be kept in mind that though the percentage of urban population is increasing, this high percentage is not because the number of towns is increasing but it is because of the fast growth of existing towns. Considering

the relative growth of population in each district of Maharashtra as compared to the State of Maharashtra, one finds that out of 25 districts of Maharashtra, most of the districts of Western Maharashtra have a gain of urban population during 1961-71 decade and excluding Chandrapur, all districts of Vidharbha indicate loss in urban population. The same trend is followed for most of the districts of Western Maharashtra and Vidharbha in next decade (1971-81). In Vidharbha, only Nagpur district indicate 1.73 percent gain during this period. In the present decade (1981-91) there are 17 districts, where gains of urban population are indicated. They also include Buldhana, Akola, Nagpur, Chandrapur districts of Vidharbha. In Vidharbha, Chandrapur district shows very high gain of urban population during last three decades.

In respect of urban concentration, one finds that, there are few districts, where urban concentration is very high. They include Thane, Pune, Solapur, Jalgaon, Amravati and Nagpur. As compared to these districts other districts show low urban concentration in 1961. In 1971, there are only four districts where high degree of urban concentration is observed. In 1981, the same four districts indicate high degree of urban concentration. But, in 1991, six districts of Maharashtra namely Thane, Nashik, Pune, Aurangabad, Osmanabad and Nagpur have high degree of urban concentration.

Concluding the salient features of degree of urbanisation

in districts of Maharashtra, it is observed that from 1961 onwards there are few areas, where degree of urbanisation shows very high rate of growth. Constant high degree of urbanisation is observed in Thane, Nashik, Pune, Amravati, Solapur, Wardha, Akola and Nagpur. In the recent years high rate of urban growth is observed for Thane, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra. This sudden change in rate of urban growth is the result of development of large scale industries in this parts of Maharashtra.

The classwise structure and distribution of towns clearly highlights the growth in number of towns during last fifty years. The one most important feature of growth of towns in various classes indicates that since 1951 till 1991, there is a continuous growth in the number of towns in class I to class IV towns. On the other hand the number of towns in class V and class VI indicates steady decline. This clearly indicates that towns are gaining more population and they are eluvated to higher order class.

On the basis of general observation, the pattern of urbanisation, which emerge in Maharashtra, indicate that there are few regions where the rate of urbanisation is very high. Bombay, Pune and Nagpur districts show more than 50 percent urbanisation, while 30 to 50 percent urbanisation is found in Nashik, Aurangabad and Amravati districts. Twelve districts of Maharashtra - Solapur, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Akola, Dhule, Nanded

Sangli, Chandrapur, Parbhani, Buldhana, Latur and Wardha indicate 20 to 30 percent urbanisation and remaining eleven districts of Maharashtra have less than 20 percent rate of urbanisation. This clearly shows, highly industrialized districts having super class I cities have high rate of urbanisation. The districts having cities of regional importance have moderate rate of urbanisation. Low and very low rate of urbanisation is observed in most of the districts, where industrial progress has yet to make its mark.

Concluding the salient features of development and urbanisation one may say that the economic development takes place in stages. Resource potentials and economic base are the important factors which encourage the growth of urbanisation. The levels of development can be calculated by several methods and with the help of various indicators, but the method used here is more easy to calculate and gives better reasons. The regional analysis of the development and urbanisation has been studied separately where it is observed that in 1971, 13 districts indicate high to moderate level of economic development, but during the same year there are only three districts, where high to moderate level of urbanisation is observed. In 1981, 14 districts show high to moderate level of economic development but only four districts show high degree of urbanisation. Surprisingly in 1991, there are 14 districts where high level of economic development is observed but there are only five districts which show high to moderate level of urbanisation.

It means, some of the districts having agricultural base may show high level of economic development but the rate of urban growth is very poor. The five districts of Maharashtra namely Thane, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik and Aurangabad are industrially developed districts of Maharashtra. Remaining all districts are more dominated by agrarian economy.

The close observation of relation between the level of development and the level of urbanisation indicates high positive correlation.
