

CHAPTER - I



INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION AND APPROACH
TO THE PRESENT STUDY



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- 1.2 Physical setting
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1.1 THE REGION UNDER STUDY :

The State of Maharashtra, located in peninsular parts of India, is third largest state in area and population in the country. The geographical location of the study region indicates that it lies between 15°4' to 22°1' North latitude and 72°6' to 80°9' East longitudes, with an area of 307,690 sq.km. and a population of 7.87 crores in 1991. Administratively the entire region is divided into six divisions - Konkan, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur; comprising 30 districts and Bombay as a state capital. There are 304 tahsil units in Maharashtra (Fig.1.1). It is highly urbanised state of India, where 38.7 percent population lives in urban areas. There are 336 urban centres in Maharashtra, of which 33 centres are classified as class I cities. There are 39,354 inhabited rural settlements in the area.

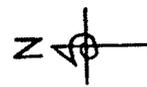
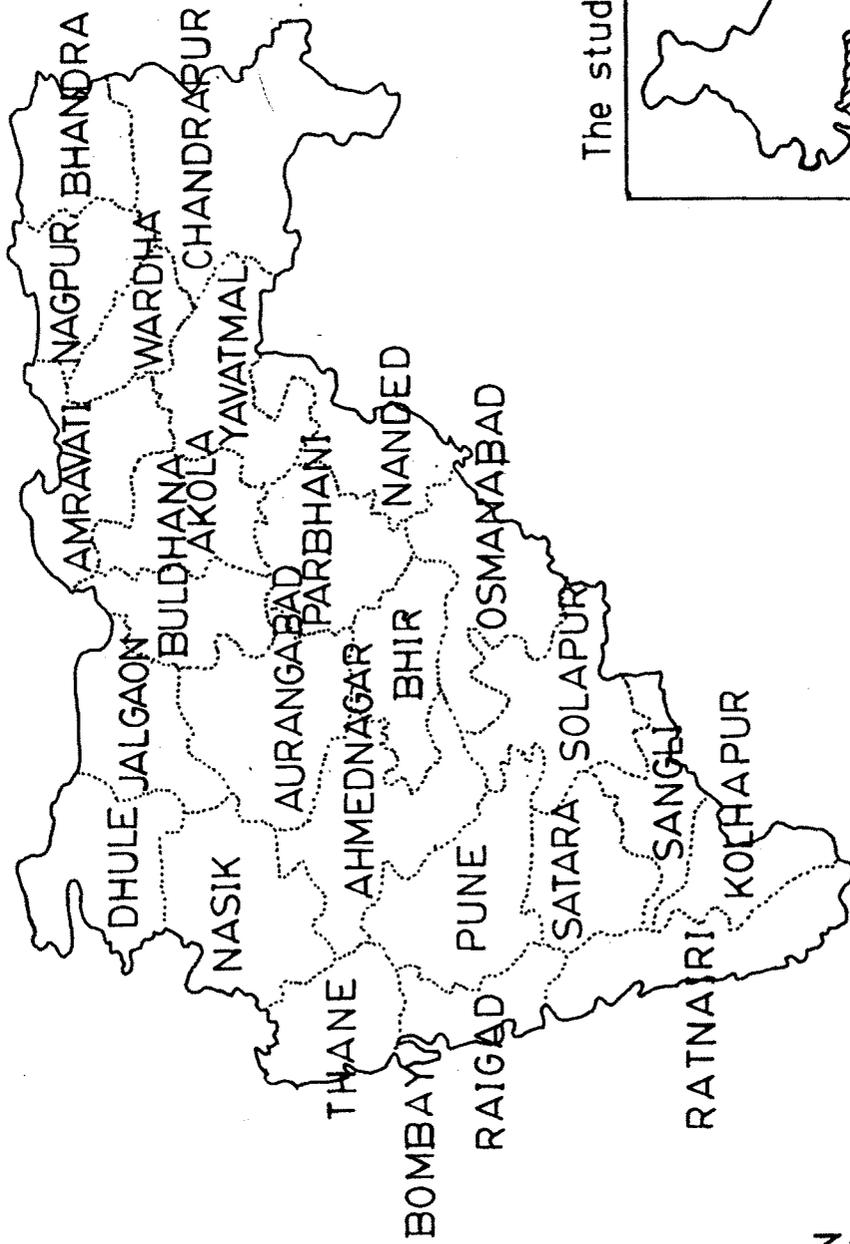
1.2 PHYSICAL SETTING :

Geologically, Maharashtra belongs to the basaltic formation known as Deccan lava. Physically, the state comprises four natural divisions, the coastal lowland, hilly area of Sahyadries, the Deccan plateau region and Tapi-Purna valley region.

There are several important rivers flowing in the eastwest and westeast direction. The Deccan rivers and their tributories flow down the plateau slope, eastward,

MAHARASHTRA

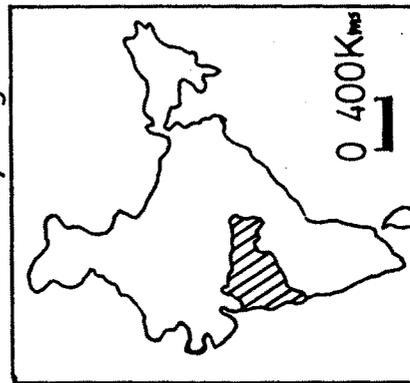
ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS~DISTRICT



50 0 50 100Kms.



The study region



Newly formed districts are not considered

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Fig. 1.1

drained to the Bay of Bengal. The rivers of Tapi-Purna system flow towards West and the short but swift rivers of Konkan drain into the Arabian sea. The Krishna, the Godawari, the Tapi-Purna, the Wardha and the Wainganga are the important rivers of Maharashtra (Fig.1.2).

1.3 LAND USE :

The general landuse of Maharashtra, indicates that out of the total area, 21 percent area is covered by forest, mostly in Sahyadrian range and Chandrapur district and 58 percent land under cultivation. Area sown more than once is only 5.4 percent. In respect of agriculture, it is observed that Pune and Bombay divisions have developed in agriculture where the percentage of land under cultivation is also more. Marathwada and Vidharbha region have more percentage of cultivable land but the percentage of land under irrigation is less.

Agriculture is the mainstay of economy of Maharashtra. The state has several irrigation projects which have tried to develop irrigation of Maharashtra. Only 13.3 percent land under cultivation is under irrigation and it is estimated that in the near future 10 percent cropped area under irrigation will be developed. Sugarcane, tobacco, cotton and groundnut are the important cash crops of Maharashtra. Konkan region is dominated by various spices and rice. Rice is the staple crop of this area associated with ragi and millets. Western Maharashtra plateau region is dominated by sugarcane cultivation.

Jawar and rice are the important food crops of the area. Marathwada and Vidharbha region are dominated by cotton and groundnut where jawar and pulses is the staple food of the people. The development of irrigation and the diffusion of agricultural innovations has brought significant changes in economic structure of the region.

1.4 RESOURCES :

Inspite of agricultural resources, the region has 21 percent area under forest. The major forest products are timber and firewood. Teak is the most important timber. The important areas of forest products include Western Ghats, Satpuda ranges and Chandrapur district of the region.

In respect of fisheries, it is very rich state with a coastline of 720 kms. The state has great potentials for marine fisheries.

Maharashtra has vast deposits of maganese ore, iron ore, coal, bauxite and limestone. In addition to it, minerals like dolomite, limonite, clays and silica also found in the state. But the distribution of minerals is not uniform. The important areas of mineral deposits are located in Yeotmal, Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Raigarh, Ratnagiri and Thane districts. Chandrapur is the richest district of Maharashtra in respect of minerals and forest wealth.

1.5 INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE :

Industry is a major theme in economic progress. Since independence, there has been a material growth in industrial activity and production makes Maharashtra, the leading industrial state of the union. The traditional household industries like handloom, blacksmithy and like other have wide regional distribution and still they play important role in the village economy.

From the point of view of economic production, it is large scale industry that plays the dominant role and makes Maharashtra, the leading industrial state of the union. The state economy has more than 30 percent contribution from industrial sector.

Industrial development in Maharashtra has been characterised by uncontrolled growth of industries in Bombay-Pune urban belt. It has created extreme regional imbalance. To solve this problem the state has adopted a deliberate policy of dispersal of industries. The government has established Regional Development Corporations. These corporations have tried to establish new industries in different parts of Maharashtra. All these industries are financed by M.S.F.C., Bombay-Pune is one of the important industrial agglomeration of Maharashtra. The another agglomeration is found in Kolhapur-Solapur zone. In Marathwada, industrial development is very rapid in Aurangabad and Nanded districts. In Vidharbha region

only Nagpur area is industrially developed. Comparing the entire Maharashtra, it is observed that Bombay-Pune divisions have developed more industries as compared to Vidharbha and Marathwada region. In Vidharbha, Chandrapur district has rich infrastructure for the development of industries. It is the richest district of Maharashtra in respect of mineral and forest wealth.

According to 1991 reports, Maharashtra has 23,058 working factories, contributing 13.1 percent national income.

1.6 TRANSPORT NETWORK :

A well developed network of means of transport is indispensable for the economic development. Inadequacy of transport puts bottlenecks in growth, since production and distribution of goods and services are dependent upon efficient, reliable, competitive and quick transport system.

The evolution of the present transport network in Maharashtra shows the influence of both relief and techno-economic progress recorded from the ancient past to the present time. The development in the present century, especially after independence and present state of the transport network is revealed by the following figures.

The total rail length of 5,440 kms consist of 3,356 kms in broadgauge, 1000 kms in metregauge and 1,084 kms in

narrow-gauge (1991). The total road length is 2.73 lakh kms in which 2,940 kms are of National Highway category, 19,539 kms of State Highway category, 56,404 kms of District road category and the rest are village roads and un-surfaced. If we compare these figures, with all India figures, it reveals the relatively unfavourable position of the transport network in Maharashtra and this appears all the more surprising for a state, which is rapidly industrialising. The road length in Maharashtra is 67 kms per 100 sq.km. of area, while in India it is 56 kms per 100 sq.km. (1991); but Maharashtra ranks 9th in this figure. According to population the road length is 164 kms, per one lakh of population. Air and water transportation also developed in the state after independence.

1.7 THE CONCEPT OF URBANISATION :

Urbanisation is a process of agglomeration of people and concentration of economic activities in geographical space. It exercises a growing influence on all aspects of life of society, affecting the nature of economic development. It also involves the influence of demographic, ethnic and social processes. Urbanisation being a complex and multi-dimensional process, its study requires a comprehensive approach. Thus the study of processes pose a basic question in defining the concept of urbanisation.

Hauser (1965) in "UNESCO Handbook" defines 'Urbanisation'

(from demographic point of view) is a process of population concentration which occurs by increase in the number of points of concentrations or agglomerations and by increase in the size of individual population concentration or agglomeration.

Assessment of the extent of urbanisation implies the study of the number of urban places and their respective size, the absolute number of persons living in urban places and the proportion of the total population in urban places.

Lynch (1963) while commenting on some aspects of rural-urban continuum in India, has defined 'Urban', 'Urbanism' and 'Urbanisation.' Urban is defined as, "That complex which makes of the characteristic mode of life in town and cities," and urbanism is "The process of urbanism or adoption of men and women to urban life. It is a process that is internal to the urban or city setting itself." Urbanisation on the other hand is the development and extension of these (urban) factors. Urbanisation and urban are the process and the fact respectively.

Stamp (1961) takes the term urbanisation as 'Urbanisation is characterised by movement of people from small communities concerned chiefly or solely with agriculture to other communities, generally larger, where activities are primarily centred in management, manufacturing, trade and allied interest.'

Thus the concept 'urbanisation' implies changes in nature of people's activities in the ratio between the population engaged

in non-agricultural activities and the rest of the population. Urbanisation can be represented as process leading to a spatial concentration of activities in relatively few areas where urban efficiency is the highest (Allam and Pokhishevsky, 1974).

The process of urbanisation takes place when the proportion of urban population is increasing. When the rate of growth of urban population increases, it brings the respective change in urban population. Urbanisation also increases due to re-classification of rural settlements into urban status, but the real change in urban growth character is due to the net immigration of rural population.

The rural to urban migration is the chief component of the urbanisation and the essential mechanism by which the urban trends are accomplished (N.B.K.Reddy, 1970).

The simplest and the most commonly accepted definition of urbanisation refers to the proportion of total population living in the urban settlements or else to a rise in proportion.

Sociologists treat urbanisation as a process of diffusion of certain modernizing traits or characteristic in a population. It is often considered to be a casual factor of modernization. According to this approach, urbanisation can occur in a rural setting too. It is, however, pointed out that these traits characterise the urban areas more than the rural areas and hence urbanisation and modernisation go together.

Economists consider urbanisation as a process where the primary production functions are replaced by secondary, tertiary and quaternary functions. Economic activities and land values are the main focus of urban economist, although in recent years they have tended to be more inter-disciplinary in approach.

Geographers view, urbanisation as a process of concentration of population in human settlements either through multiplication of the points of concentration or through increase in size of existing points of concentration.

Urbanisation as a subprocess of general process of development is a continuous and secular process of change. R.P.Misra (1970) defined "Urbanisation as a process which reveals itself through temporal, spatial and sectoral changes in demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental aspects of life in a given society." These changes manifest themselves in increasing concentration of population in human settlements larger than villages in increasing involvement of people in secondary and tertiary production functions and in progressive adoption of certain traits.

The division of human habitat into urban and rural, associated with dichotomies of 'modern' and 'traditional', 'industrial' and 'agricultural'. One finds urban attributes in rural population and areas and rural attributes in urban

population and areas. So urbanisation involves the transformation of rural attributes to urban ones. According to V.L.S. Prakash Rao (1983), the urbanisation process relates to concentration of people engaged in non-agricultural occupations and concentration of non-agricultural landuses in specialised area. So urbanisation involves :-

- i) Concentration of people at population densities higher than those associated with agricultural population.
- ii) Population shift or migration from rural to urban areas.
- iii) Occupational shift from agriculture to non-agricultural.
- iv) Landuse shift from agriculture to non-agriculture.

These shifts are associated with economic development, but not always sequential or contiguous and are accompanied by a rise in incomes and consequent improvement in standard of living, change in 'life style' and changes in institutional framework. Thus there is a chain of shifts.

1.8 URBANISATION IN INDIAN CONTEXT :

The distinction between rural and urban is not always amenable to a single definition which could be applicable to all countries. There is no universally accepted definition of the term urban. An urban area should not be distinguished only on

the basis of defined demographic characteristic but also on the basis of the levels of infra-structure facilities. Ideally, it would be useful to define urban areas in terms of levels of infra-structure development and the availability of social amenities in a given area, but criterias based on that are not adopted in defining an urban area in India. For 1991 census the conventional definition has been adopted largely for the urban unit which in fact has been adopted in 1961, continued to 1971, 1981, upto 1991.

The Census of India recognized the settlements as an urban places when they fulfil the following criterias.

- (a) All places with a municipalities, corporation, contonment board or notified town area committee etc.
- (b) All other places which satisfied the following criterias -
 - (i) A minimum population of 5,000.
 - (ii) At least 75 percent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural persuits.
 - (iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq.kms (1000 persons per sq. miles).

1.9 URBANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT :

Urbanisation is a process which is linked with scientific and technological changes, economic progress and overall development

of the region. Industrialization and urbanisation go hand in hand, so sometimes people use this term with the casual degree of association.

Hence, urbanisation is a component of regional economic development, because urban centres provide inter-alia a variety of centralized services for the surrounding zone of influence which are necessary for regional development. Urbanisation leads to change in infrastructure which affect on regional development, industrialization, transportation linkages etc. At the same time dynamics of regional economy, population growth increasing employment in tertiary sector are signs of regional development. Thus urbanisation is a polarization technique which has been adopted for regional development. Urbanisation brings regional prosperity, so urbanisation and regional development are closely correlated and cannot be separated.

Hence urbanisation and development are related processes, the study about the relationship between urbanisation and economic development is an important subject matter in social sciences. The process of development acts like an organic growth of human body, which is not a riversible process.

1.10 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

Considering above all factors the present work has been undertaken with the following objectives.

- (i) To study the growth of urbanisation in Maharashtra since independence.
- (ii) To identify and analyse the trends of urbanisation since independence in Maharashtra.
- (iii) To study the levels of development in Maharashtra.
- (iv) To study the correlation between levels of development and growth of urbanisation in Maharashtra.

1.11 DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY :

In the present study, the district level data is collected since the entire work is based on secondary data and the period considered is of 40 years. 26 administrative districts are taken into consideration, because for 1951 to 1981, the data is available for 26 districts only. The basic data pertaining to demographic and socio-economic aspects of the region are collected from census handbook of Maharashtra, municipal abstracts, town directory, statistical abstracts of Maharashtra etc.

In the present study, various methods and techniques have been used. The details regarding methods and techniques will be discussed in the text at proper places. Various indices of distribution, concentration such as 'shift and share analysis', 'correlation' are used.

In order to find out the levels of development, parameters have been selected and justified at the appropriate place.

In the style of presentation, the references are given at the end of each chapter.

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