

CHAPTER SEVENCONCLUSION

The 'rural-urban fringe' is a transitional zone between the 'urban' and 'rural' land-scape. The zone lies on the periphery of the town and consists of 'rural fringe' and 'urban fringe'. The fringe zone of a city is dynamic in nature. It changes its area and boundary with the expansion of the city limits. The old part of an urban fringe is gradually absorbed into the urban zone with the growth of city limits. In the present study, before identifying the fringe zone the unland of Solapur city has been demarcated because the immediate unland of a city gives us a clear-cut idea of a city influence on surrounding rural landscape.

The demarcation of the fringe zone has been made by the investigation of various factors which influence the fringe zone of a city. In the modern age with the rapid expansion of city limits and growing urbanization the delimitation of rural-urban fringe poses a complex problem. In the present study fringe zone of Solapur city has been demarcated by studying the following factors:

- 1 The degree of urbanisation,
- 2 Agricultural land value,

- 3 Level of transportation,
- 4 Non-agricultural land value,
- 5 Population density,
- 6 Percentage of population engaged in secondary and tertiary activities,
- 7 Sex ratio,
- 8 Percentage of literate population.

Considering the above mentioned factors, the fringe boundary of Solapur city has been delimited.

All the above mentioned factors and the factors which influence the immediate unland of city have been taken into consideration. In the course of the examination of all the above mentioned factors, it was found out that the fringe boundary of Solapur city approximately coincides with the boundary of the City Bus terminous points. Giving due consideration to this and to all other points, the fringe boundary has been demarcated.

A fringe zone of a city is a transitional zone between the rural area on the one side and urban area on the other. It possesses the mixed characteristics of 'urbanism' and 'ruralism'. In these characteristics 1) land value, 2) commuting population, 3) sex ratio,

4) literacy, 5) agricultural activities, and 6) occupational characteristics and other several factors are important.

The pattern of land use in the area is dynamic and changes its nature from rural to urban use. Within the short period from the analysis of nine villages in the fringe area comparatively high percentage of land is found under fruit and vegetable gardening. In the fringe area, changes of farm land into non-farm uses creates several problems. Residential development in the fringe area also changes the agricultural pattern of the rural areas.

On the basis of sample study of cropping pattern and agricultural land use the fringe zone can be divided into two parts. North and north-west part of the fringe area where availability of water has increased the prospects of irrigation, more land is devoted to cash crops and vegetable farming. In the southern and southeastern parts of the fringe where industrial development is taking place, very high percentage of agricultural land has been converted into non-agricultural use. In these parts the dominance of food crops is observed.

In the study of demographic, social and economic characteristics of the fringe zone several aspects have been considered to find out the urban influence in the fringe area. It is observed that the aerial size of the villages in

the fringe area is very high as compared to the average size of villages in the rural area. Similarly, the population size of the villages is almost double the average size village of the rural area. In the fringe area the housing density is four times greater than the housing of the rural area. The density of population is also high as compared to rural areas. The decadal growth rate of population in the fringe zone is more than double, than that of rural areas. The rural electrification in Solapur district, is only 41.06 per cent, but in the fringe zone the percentage of rural electrification is 89.23 per cent.

In respect of working population it is observed that out of the total working population of fringe zone, 67.99 per cent population is engaged in primary activities. In the rural areas, the percentage of the same is 87.39. City's growing industrial complex is normally located in the fringe zone and all these industrial establishments provide work for the rural population. Naturally, in the fringe zone the percentage of population engaged in manufacturing activity is always high as compared to rural areas. In the study area, 18.17 per cent of working population is engaged in manufacturing activity. On the other hand, in the rural areas, it is only 4.50 per cent.

Similarly, the development of tertiary activity of a city encroaches upon the fringe area and several tertiary activities develop in the fringe zone. Naturally, the percentage of population in the tertiary activity is slightly higher than the rural areas.

The study has highlighted certain urban influences on the fringe zone in which it has been found out that there is a definite pattern of landuse changes in the fringe belt. The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the fringe area have also been influenced by the urban influence of Solapur city.

Future Trend of Fringe Extension

Looking into the trend of growth and future expansion of the city limits, it can be predicted that in the future the limits of the existing fringe zone may be extended towards southern and eastern sides, because the industrial and residential development of Solapur city is taking place towards the eastern and southern sides. The western and northwestern sides of the fringe area have physiographic limitations as well as these areas have a dominance of fertile soil.