

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
 - 1.2 STUDY REGION
 - 1.3 LIMITATION AND SCOPE
 - 1.4 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY
 - 1.5 DATA SOURCE
 - 1.6 METHODOLOGY
 - 1.7 REVIEW OF LITERATURE
 - 1.8 CHAPTER OUTLINE OF THE WORK
- REFERENCES

CHAPTER –I**INTRODUCTION****1.1 NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The population geography is the sub-field of Human Geography. Among the major contributors to the field, Glenn T. Trewartha gains the most important place for having initiated the development of this systematic branch of geography (Chandana and Sidhu, 1980). He focused the attention of the geographers on the significance of man among the various elements that determine the character of areas. He also reminded the geographers for the neglect of this aspect. So geographers are more interested in the study of relation between population distribution and environment and the other factors influencing population distribution.

A comprehensive understanding of changes in various significant attributes of population demands the study of prevailing patterns of its distribution. It reveals as to how man has attributed himself, at a particular point of time in the context of his physical environment, type of economy and cultural patterns. The distributional pattern of population is in fact, an eloquent expression of synthesis at all geographic phenomena operating in an area (Chandana, 1969).

Geographer's goal as an analyst of population is the understanding of regional differences in the earth's covering by the people. Just as areal differentiation is the theme of geography in particular variation, the distribution of population from one locality to another and from region to region is related to numerous physical and cultural factors. The stage of economic development, social and political factors also play their role effectively as others in the distribution of population (Nazir, 1977).

The analysis of the population distribution and density is fundamental for understanding the population geography of any area. The population distribution means the spatial arrangement of people in a region, which is mainly based on the aggregate investigations about the people within small areal units of a region. Population distribution is dynamic process which is ever-changing and its cause and effect vary in spatio temporal frame (Clarke, 1973).

Population density is another significant measure of population studies. This is a ratio between population and land. It denotes degree of population concentration and is generally expressed in terms of persons per unit area. There are various types of densities. All these densities help in the diversity of man's distribution in space. The regional variation in the distribution and density of population are largely affected by the physical environment, economic conditions and cultural patterns.

Similar to the distribution of any other natural resources, the distribution of population on the surface of the earth is uneven. The uneven distribution of population is a significant factor influencing various aspects of human life. It is, therefore, essential to study distribution of population since it influences the future plans for development, political moves and rate of development (Sawant and Athavale, 1994). It is in this context the study of population distribution of Maharashtra is undertaken.

1.2 STUDY REGION: *idea*

The state of Maharashtra is one of the 28 states of Indian Union. This State was formed on first, May, 1960. The State is about 800 Km. from west to east and 700 Km. from north to south. It is the third largest State in India in respect of area and second in population. The study region lies between $15^{\circ}41'$ N. to $22^{\circ}10'$ N. latitude and $72^{\circ}6'$ E. to $80^{\circ}45'$ E. longitude. It is bounded by Arabian sea on the west, Gujrath in north-west, Madhya Pradesh in the north, Chhatisgarh in east, Andhra Pradesh in south-east and Karnataka and Goa in the south. (Fig. 1.1)

The geographical area of the State is 3,07,713 sq. Km. which is about one-tenth of the area of the Indian Union. The total population of the State according to 2001 census is 9,67,52,247 and is about 9.33 percent of country's total population.

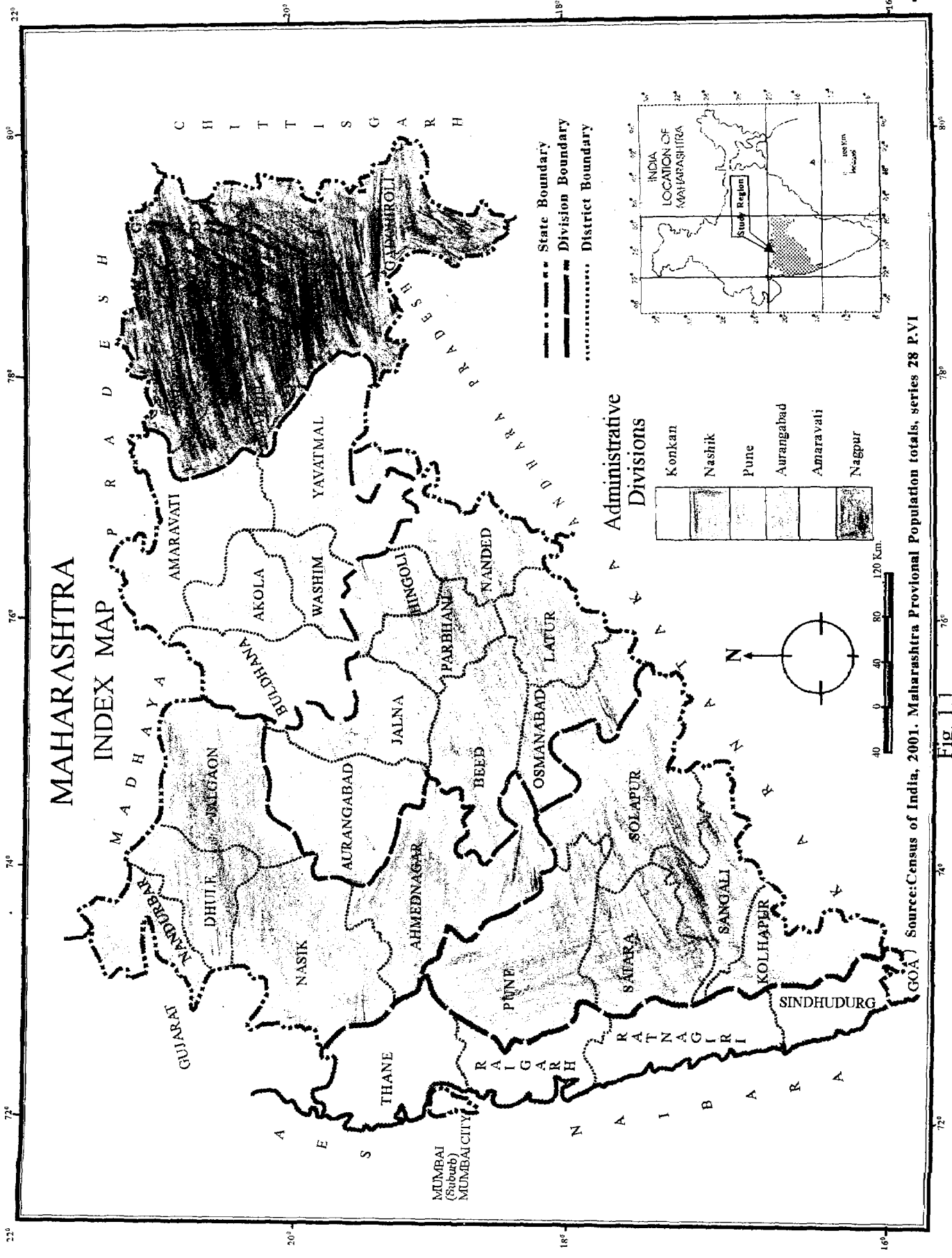


Fig. 1.1 Source: Census of India, 2001. Maharashtra Provisional Population totals, series 28 P.VI

Maharashtra consist of 35 districts and is divided into six administrative divisions viz. Konkan, Pune, Nasik, Aurangabad, Amarawati and Nagpur. The Nagpur and Amarawati divisions are usually referred to as Vidarbha and Aurangabad division is known as Marathawada.

1.3 LIMITATION AND SCOPE:

The present study is focused more on the regional patterns of population distribution. The total population viz. rural and urban are taken into consideration for studying distribution. The entire study is based on secondary data. Analysis of various aspects of population distribution is done mostly at district level. Case study is not attempted in the present work due to large extent of the region. The present study is concerned only with regional distribution of population centred at 2001 census.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of the present study is to investigate the regional inequalities in distribution of population in Maharashtra. The specific objectives to be studied are as under:

1. To study the regional distribution of population
2. To investigate the concentration of population
3. To analyse the correlation between population distribution and the selected factors.

1.5 DATA SOURCE:

The present study is entirely based on secondary data of 2001 census. Therefore the required data has been collected from the following four main sources:

- i. Census reports published by the Govt. of India
- ii. Vital statistics
- iii. Reports published by the Govt. of Maharashtra
- iv. Miscellaneous sources of published and unpublished records.

Besides above, some information is taken from the dissertations, books and journals mentioned under the heading of bibliography.

1.6 METHODOLOGY:

In the present work district has been taken as a unit of investigation. On the basis of density, the study region has been divided into different groups of population density viz. extremely high, very high, high, moderate, low and very low. Choropleth maps are prepared for supporting the analysis of distribution of population. However, for the purpose of analysis of patterns of concentration location quotients are computed. The association between population distribution and selected factors is tested by the Spearman's rank correlation, scatter diagram and superimposed method. The details of the methods have been given at the required places in the text. Besides this, the suitable cartographic

techniques are used for presentation of data. These maps and graphs are useful for comparison and analysis of the regional variation.

1.7 REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The work on regional distribution of population has been done by various scholars in the world. In India also many geographers have done work in this field. Prakash has mapped tahsil and district level data of Uttar Pradesh to analyse the pattern of density and distribution of population, Ghosh and Kumar have separately studied the distribution pattern of Bihar's population in the context of intra-state variation in physio-economic set-up using village level data for Upper Bari Doab. Mitra and Singh examined the distributional pattern of population in the Brahmaputra valley.

Mehta has made a spatial analysis of distribution of population in Rajasthan. Kumar used 'running mean' as a technique to obtain smoothed surface of population distribution and growth in Mandakini valley of Uttar Pradesh. Shastri made use of potential model to examine the distribution of population in Vidarbha. Shinde and Shrikhande made a spatial analysis of rural population in Maharashtra state. Jare has made a geographical study of some aspects of population in Maharashtra. Kale has separately studied spatio temporal distribution and growth of population in Satara district. All the work on population distribution done in India is based on the secondary data.

1.8 CHAPTER OUTLINE OF THE WORK:

The present work is organized into five chapters. The first chapter of this dissertation is an introduction. It includes the need and significance of the study, study region, limitation and scope, objectives of study, sources of data, methodology, review of literature and outline of the chapters. The second chapter deals with physio-socio-economic setting of the region.

The third chapter includes regional pattern of distribution of population. It is also concerned with concentration of population. The correlation of population distribution and the selected factors is analysed in the fourth chapter. The last chapter presents the summary and conclusions of the work. The references are given at the end of each chapter. The tables have been used at proper places.

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