



STUDY OF URBANIZATION TRENDS IN WESTERN MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract

Degree of Urbanization is an indicator of development, this is a worldwide truth and being a developed state of country Maharashtra is not exception to this rule. This paper aims to understand meaning and importance of urbanization process and urbanization process in western Maharashtra. Western Maharashtra is one of the developed regions in Maharashtra and it is also hub of sugar industry. This paper tries to compare urbanization process of India, Maharashtra and western Maharashtra between last five decades from 1961 to 2011. Even though Pune the 9th largest city of country lies in this region pace of urbanization in this region is low i.e. 33.90 % compare to Maharashtra State i.e. 45.20% and India i.e. 31.20% in 2011. But it is noteworthy that urbanization rate of western Maharashtra is more than National average.

Key Words : *Urbanization, Rurban areas, Migration, Metropolitan cities.*

Introduction:

The concept of urban centre is not homogenous on the globe, it varies by space of settlement, population of settlement and occupation pattern in settlement worldwide. The process of urbanization is increasing at rapid rate and it has been predicted that by the end of century majority population of world will be living in cities. (Laxshmi Shivramkrushnan and Rajib Sarkar 2011) In the beginning of 1800 century only 4 percent world population was living in the cities and in 2006 it increases up to 54 percent. Influx of populations continuously rising in urban areas for the energy chain and maintain economic mechanism of expanding urban centers. In fact cities take up about 2 percent of world's available surface area and consume bulk of key resources (Mitra and Sharma 2002) Actually the process of urbanization is much complex and it exerts several complicated impact on physical environment. In India, the percentage of urban population in the states is increasing. In the analysis of regional development, urban growth is the most important indicator and in the analysis of socio-economic development urban centre plays an important role and it is essential for the analysis of growth of urban settlement. According to Stamp (1961), "Urbanization is characterized by movement of people from small communities concerned chiefly or solely with agriculture to other communities, generally larger, where activities are primarily centered in management, manufacturing, trade and allied interest". Urbanization is the process by which villages turn into town and town develop into cities. It is a cyclical process through which a nation normally passes as it evolves from an agrarian to an industrial society. The urbanization in India and Maharashtra state in last century has distinct characteristic, urbanization in India is very low compare to other developing countries of world and in case of Maharashtra it is very high compare to any other state of country. Maharashtra is one of the fastest growing states in Indian. Maharashtra is the third most urbanized state of the country. Urban population of Maharashtra has been increased more than five times during the last 60 years from 9.20 million in 1951 to 50.83 million in 2011.

Meaning of Urbanization In India:

For being urban centre are variety of standards worldwide and there is no uniformity for defining it. According to UN report definition of urban area can be given on the basis of following five factors namely administrative area, Size of population, Expansion of local government, Urban features and Domination of economic activities. (Zingan, Bhat and Desai 2005) In India 1971 Census has adopted the following strict scale definition of urban areas. Total population of the area should 500

or more, Density of the population should 400 person per sq. Kilometer, 75 percent population of the working population should be engaged in non primary activities and there should be notified town committee or Municipality, Corporation or Cantonment board.

Objectives : Present research paper aims the following aims and objectives.

1. To study trend of urbanization in western Maharashtra.
2. To investigate gap of urbanization in Western Maharashtra, Maharashtra and India during last five decades.

Data and Methodology:

This study is entirely based on secondary sources collected from provisional Census 2011, District census handbooks, District Socio economic abstracts, Journals, books and recent articles. The collected information is processed by using different statistical techniques. The formula used for the same is following.

$$PU = \frac{UP}{TP} \times 100$$

Where, PU = Percentage of Urbanization; UP = Urban population and TP = Total Population.

Urbanization In India:

India is experiencing rapid rate of urbanization and its urban population has increased from 25 million (10.84 percent) to 377 million (31.2 percent) in 2011. In the following ten years urban population is likely to cross 550 millions milestone. The most outstanding feature of Indian urban population is that in 1991, 71 millions (33 percent) of urban population lived in 23 millions cities of India which increased to 108 million (38 percent) in 2001 living in 38 metropolitan cities.

Table No.01: Urbanization in India

Census Year	Number of Cities	Total Urban Population (In Millions)	Percentage of Urban Population	Increase in Urban population per decade (In Million)	Percentage increase per decade
1901	1917	25	10.84	-	-
1911	1909	26	10.29	1	+ 0.35
1921	2047	28	11.18	2	+8.27
1931	2219	34	11.99	6	+19.12
1941	2424	44	13.86	17	+31.97
1951	3059	63	17.29	19	+41.42
1961	2699	79	17.97	16	+26.41
1971	3119	109	19.91	30	+38.22
1981	3949	160	23.31	51	+46.80
1991	4689	217	25.70	65	+36.50
2001	5161	284	27.80	68	+31.30
2011	7935	377	31.20	93	+32.15

Source: Registrar General of India.

Urbanization In Maharashtra:

According to 2011 census Goa state rank first in urbanization with 62 percent. In case of Mizoram 51.50 percent population resides in urban areas, followed by Tamilnadu with 48.90 percent urban population. Urbanization scenario of Maharashtra state is greatly characterized by polarization. Temporal aspect shows that urban population of Maharashtra state is changing with even pace. In last 100 years urban population is raised by three fold from 15.10 percent in 1911 to 45.70 percent in

2011. Spatial characteristic of urbanization in Maharashtra is greatly influenced by concentration there are certain pockets like Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur are urban clusters against to that remaining state is lagging behind in urban expansion. Nagpur, Nashik, Amaravati, Aurangabad, Kolhapur are steadily growing cities of Maharashtra state.

Table No.02: Urbanization in Maharashtra state

Census Year	Number of Cities	Total Urban Population (In Millions)	Percentage of Urban Population	Increase in Urban population per decade (In Million)
1961	237	111	28.2	19
1971	246	157	31.2	46
1981	254	219	35.0	62
1991	282	305	38.7	86
2001	490	411	42.4	106
2011	536	508	45.2	97

Source: Registrar General of India.

Some Industrial Zones work as a magnet and it attract rural population from countryside. Viz. Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad, Nagpur, Nasik, Aurangabad, Sholapur etc. In last 5 decades number of town rose from 237 to 536 which is more than double.

Gaps of Urbanization level between Maharashtra and India :

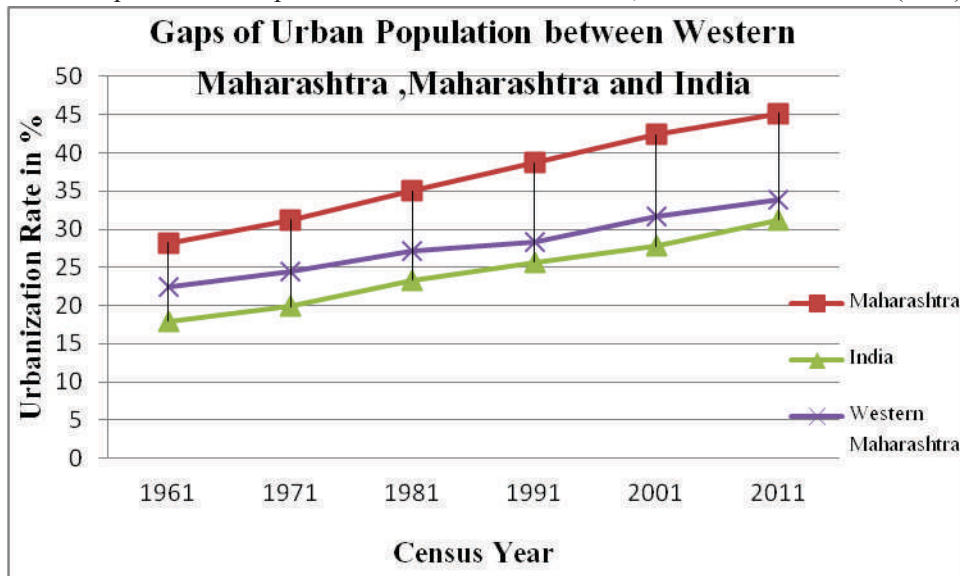
After Independence of India, during 1951 census the urbanization rate of state was higher i.e.28.8 %compared to national average i.e. 17.29%The gap decadal growth in urban population was recorded higher in Maharashtra state i.e.62.42 percent compared to national average 41.42 percent. In 2011 decadal growth rate of urban population was much blow than national average.

Table No.03:Gaps of urban Population Decadal variation and decadal Growth between Maharashtra and India

Census Year	Urban Population			Decadal Variation			Percent of Decadal Growth		
	MH	India	Gap	MH	India	Gap	MH	India	Gap
	(A)	(a)	(A-a)	(B)	(b)	(B-b)	(C)	(c)	(C-c)
1951	9201013	62443709	-53242696	3535902	18290412	-14754510	62.42	41.42	21
1961	11162261	78936603	-67774342	1961248	16492894	-14531646	21.32	26.41	-5.09
1971	15711211	109113977	-93402766	4548950	30177374	-25628424	40.75	38.23	2.52
1981	21966806	159462547	-137495741	62555955	50348570	12207385	39.82	46.14	-6.32
1991	30568586	217177625	-186609039	86017800	57715078	28302722	39.16	36.19	2.97
2001	41100980	285354954	-244253974	10532394	68177329	-57644935	34.45	31.39	3.06
2011	50818259	377105760	-326287501	9717279	91750806	-82033527	23.64	32.15	-8.51

Source: Source: Compiled by Researcher on the Basis of Census.

Graph No.01: Gaps of Urban Population of Western Maharashtra, Maharashtra and India (In %)



The pattern of Primate city is clearly observed in Maharashtra, Mumbai and suburban holds a supreme position in urban population in state. Above table shows that out of six division Konkan division rank first in urbanization in last 30 years. Even though this division tops in the list of urban population but growth rate of urbanization in Konkan division is quite lower than Pune division. Pune division has achieved highest growth rate of urban population of 10.66 percent in last three decades. Very lowest growth rate of urban population was experienced by Amravati division with 2.65 percent in last three decades.

Table No.5: Spatio Temporal Trends of Urbanization In Western Maharashtra:

Districts	Urbanization (In Percentage)					
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Pune	38.10	41.80	47.3	50.70	58.10	60.90
Solapur	27.90	27.40	29.40	28.80	31.80	32.40
Satara	11.10	13.20	13.00	12.90	14.20	19.00
Kolhapur	19.30	21.30	24.80	26.30	29.80	31.70
Sangali	15.60	18.60	21.50	22.70	24.50	25.50
Western Maharashtra	22.4	24.46	27.20	28.28	31.68	33.90
Maharashtra	28.2	31.2	35.0	38.7	42.4	45.2
India	17.97	19.91	23.31	25.70	27.80	31.20

Source: Compiled by Researcher on the Basis of Census.

Conclusion:

Western Maharashtra is developed political region compared to remaining regions of state. This region has favorable climate, black and fertile soil and good irrigation facilities which supports for onion, grapes, turmeric and sugarcane cultivation. Region produces huge sugar production it is so popularly known as Sugar Belt of Maharashtra. Production of cash crops brings prosperity. Western Maharashtra Considered as highly developed area of India and also annual income is higher than average GDP of country. Large number of sugar factories and sugar plants leads to development of towns and city centers. Even though Pune the 9th largest city of country lies in this region pace of urbanization in this region is low i.e. 33.90 % compare to Maharashtra State i.e. 45.20% in 2011. But it is noteworthy that urbanization rate of western Maharashtra is more than National average. As the Table shows in 1951 only 22.40 percent population was urban which increased to 33.90 percent in 2011. During these five decades from 1951-2011, this percentage has increased by 11.50 percent. It clearly shows that urbanization has accelerated.

The largest increase has taken place in the Pune district that is 22.80 percent from 38.10 percent in 1951 to 60.90 percent in 2011 which is nearly half fold increase. The main reason behind this increase is the coming up of rapidly developing MIDC zones, IT parks, Educational Hub, and industrial activity has created thousands of jobs and employability. However, Solapur district have recorded lowest growth only 4.50 percent in last five decades which is due to lack of such activities.

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