



Population Growth in Osmanabad District of Maharashtra A Geographical Analysis

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Abstract

Population of a country or any area is the total number of people who live in it. Populations change as a result of migration and a process called natural increase. Natural increase is the difference between births and deaths. Most countries have more births than deaths, and so their population increases, unless a net loss results from migration. The present paper intends to ascertain the population growth of Osmanabad District of Maharashtra for the period of 1901 to 2011. Population growth is a basic parameter in population science. The population of Osmanabad District has been increased tremendously since independence. Among them urban and rural population growth has been varied according to time and space. So in the present research paper, the major objective is to understand the population growth in Osmanabad District. Such a study represents the real situation of population in Osmanabad District and helps planners, population scientists and research scholars.

Keywords: *Population growth rate, decadal, spatial pattern, Urban population, rural population.*

Introduction:

Population of a country or other area is the total number of people who live in it (Chandana R.C., 1994). Populations change as a result of migration and a process called natural increase. Natural increase is the difference between births and deaths. Most countries have more births than deaths, and so their population increases, unless a net loss results from migration. The rapid increasing of population is a major problem in the socio-economic development of the region (Ghos B.N.) The large population size in an area directly affects resource availability e.g. reducing land-man ratio, shortage of food, water scarcity, shortage in electricity supply etc. From this point of view, the present study of population growth in Osmanabad District has been undertaken.

Study Area:

The study area is Osmanabad district in Marathwada region. It is located in the southern part of Maharashtra, between 17°30' to 18°40' north latitude and 75°16' to 76°40' east longitudes. It is bounded by Solapur district to the south-west, by Beed district to the north, by Ahmednagar district to north-west, and by Latur district to east. The total geographical area of Osmanabad district is 7512 sq.km. the district has 8 tehsils. It comes under the Deccan plateau and hills region. The district forms part of Godavari basin and Manjra subbasin. Manjra, Sina, Terna, Bori, Benitura are the main rivers flowing through the district

Objective:

The major object of this paper is to assess the population growth, rural and urban population growth, spatial variation in population in Osmanabad District of Maharashtra.

Database and Methodology:

Present study mostly relies on the secondary data collected through District Statistical Department of Osmanabad District socio-economic abstract of Osmanabad District and census handbook of Osmanabad District. The collected data are analyzed by statistical and cartographic

techniques. The actual growth rate of specific decade is obtained by dividing the difference between the populations of two decades. In order to assess the population growth, the following formula has been adopted.

$$Pr = \frac{Pn - Po}{Po} \times 100$$

Where 'Pr' means the population Growth rate,

'Pn' is the Population of next year,

'Po' is the Population of base year and 100 is for percentage value.

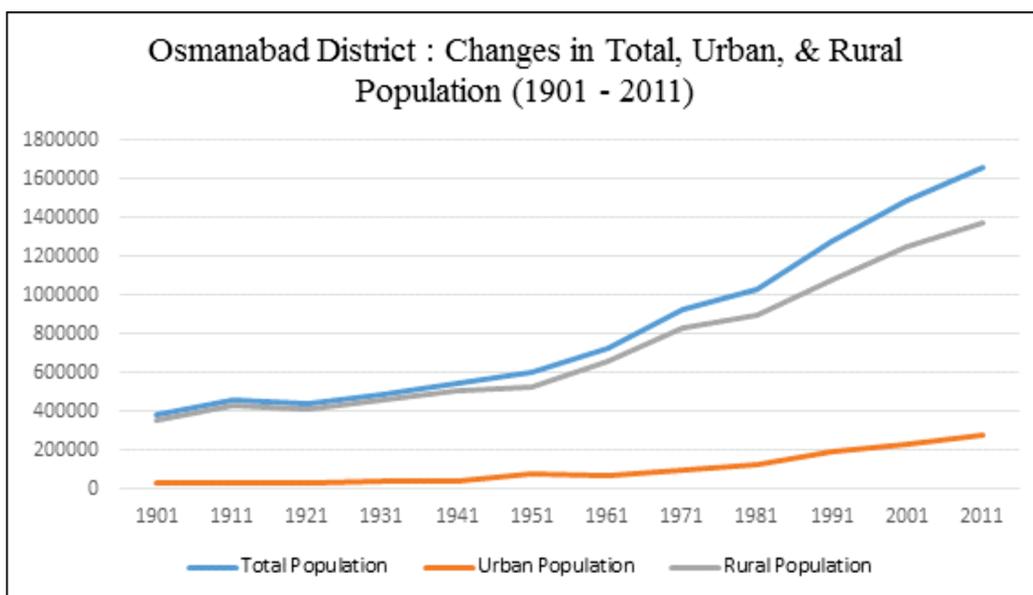
Growth of Population:

Table indicates decadal variation and percentage of decade variation in population of Osmanabad district – Total, Rural and Urban – from 1901 to 2011. In urban population there were two decades in which population growth was negative and these decades were 1911 (-1.55 %) and 1961 (-6.92 %) respectively. Highest population growth was witnessed in the decade of 1951. From twenty first century the population growth rate in urban centers has lowered and it is always fluctuating from decade to decade. In Rural areas population growth rate is vary from decade to decade. In 1921's census year, rural population growth is negative, and it was -5.23 percent. Highest change in rural population is recorded in 1971. After that it is decreased constantly up to 2011.

Changes in Total, Urban and Rural Population in Osmanabad District (1901 – 2011)

Year	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Population	Decadal Variation	Population	Decadal variation	population	Decadal variation
1901	387122	--	30238	--	356884	--
1911	460516	+18.96	29770	-1.55	430746	+20.70
1921	442156	-3.99	33933	+13.98	408223	-5.23
1931	492845	+11.46	37099	+9.33	455746	+11.64
1941	547945	+11.18	45153	+21.71	502792	+10.32
1951	603273	+10.10	74818	+65.70	528455	+5.10
1961	726036	+20.35	69638	-6.92	656398	+24.21
1971	928227	+27.85	98449	+41.37	829778	+26.41
1981	1029702	+10.93	130188	+32.24	899514	+8.40
1991	1276327	+23.95	193880	+48.92	1082447	+20.34
2001	1486586	+16.47	233256	+20.30	1253330	+15.78
2011	1657576	+11.50	281057	+20.49	1376519	+9.82

Sources – compiled by researcher from various census reports of Osmanabad District



Change in Urban Population:

The table exposes following aspects in respect of urban population is Osmanabad district during 1901 to 2011:

- i) The 1st decade of twentieth century (i.e. 1901-1911) recorded negative decade variation of -468 persons (-1.55 percent) in urban population. It is because of famine and other calamities occurred during this period.
- ii) The second decade of 20th century (1911-1921) shows a good recovery in variation of urban population (+13.98 percent).
- iii) The decades of 1921-1931 and 1931-1941, are such two important decades when urban population took an upward march.
- iv) The decade 1941-1951 is an unexpected decade as for as the urban population variation is concerned. In this valuable decade the urban population has become more than half (+65.70 percent). (This was the Independent India's first Census and urban criteria seem to have been used in a loose way).
- v) In census year 1961 the urban population of Osmanabad district is decreased by 6.92 percent. The urban population decreased by 5180, the decadal change to (-) 6.92 percent. This happened mostly because of the definition of urban region was changed.

Change in Rural Population-

Most part of the study region is rural. Total rural population of district in 2011 is 1376519 persons. The table shows rural population growth in study area from 1901-2011. The table indicates that:

- i) The rural population of Osmanabad district has revealed a declining trend in decade of, 1911-1921, casual factors being common with urban areas.
- ii) The total number of rural population has enhanced in each decade after 1921 but the difference has never been even; highest being +26.41 percent during 1961-1971 and lowest being +5.10 percent during 1941-1951.

iii) The rural population change as well as the total population change has followed nearly identical patterns; variations are created only by the erratic growth rate in population of urban area.

Conclusion:

The study of population change reveals that the population of Osmanabad district is decreased in one decade i.e. 1911-1921 (why?). After 1921, the population of the study area started increasing and due to this reason, the year 1921 is designated as 'the year of great divide'. There are different factors affecting the variation of population, viz., improvement in medical facilities, the implementation of five year plans, family welfare programmes, availability of education facilities especially among women, social awareness, and enhancement in irrigation facilities, movement of people, development of agriculture, human resources and economic activities, etc. The amazing feature of the study area is that the growth rate of rural population is lower than the urban population. There exist phenomenal changes in the population of urban centers in Osmanabad district. The high degree of urbanization, industrial growth and classification of towns increased the urban population with a very high rate (+48.92 percent) during 1981-1991. Urban growth rate sharply declined and reached up to 20.30 percent in the decade of 1991-2001. The decade 1981-1991 has witnessed increase of growth rate in rural areas.

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