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Sustainable Development Goals: Initiatives, Execution and Challenges

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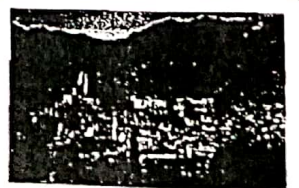
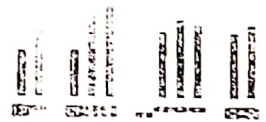
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Circlewise Population Distribution of Rural Settlements in Shrigonda Tahsil: A Geographical Analysis

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Abstract :

A study of population distribution is of immense help in rural planning and development. Analysis of the Circlewise population distribution of rural settlements reveal an interesting fact and give suggestion or hint about the, growth and distribution of population. The study of population distribution is of great help to understand the population size of circles of the Shrigonda Tahsil. The temporal and spatial distribution is useful to identify the growth rate of population in the study region. The present paper makes a geographical study of the Circlewise population distribution and average population of rural settlements in Shrigonda tahsil. This study of rural population at tahsil level will bring out applicable findings at micro level.

Keywords: Rural settlements, circle, population, distribution

Introduction:

'Settlement' is a generic term and is derived from the word "Settle". According to the pocket Oxford Dictionary (1966) the meaning of the word "Settle" is to establish or become established in more or less permanent abode or way of life. It also includes temporary stay at a place. Settlement geography, a branch of human geography, is the study of the cultural landscape. It is a science of systematic inquiry of occupancy features distributed over space with differentiation in relation to man.

The form of settlement in any region represents man's relationship with environment therefore; the study of settlement is an important aspect of Human Geography. The forms of cultural landscape spread over the surface of the earth are studied in settlement geography. Recently administrators, social workers and planners are paying more attention on the study of rural settlements. The systematic and scientific study of rural settlements may give rise to a new aspect of settlement geography. In this paper Circlewise population and average population of Shrigonda Tahsil is studied. Population is a very important part of settlements; all the activities are related with population. In the local as well as world scenario population playing a very vital role. In this study population distribution in various circles are analysed and explained.

Choice of the Study Region:

For the present research work Shrigonda tahsil of Ahmednagar District is selected as a study region. Ahmednagar is the largest district in the state of Maharashtra having 5.66 % of the area of the state. Ahmednagar district has 14 Talukas. The district has 1581 villages out of which 2 villages are deserted. In Ahmednagar district Shrigonda tahsil is selected as a study region. Shrigonda is located south west part of district. It lies between 18° 27' 18" N to 18° 51' 54" N latitude and 74° 23' 24" E to 74° 52' E longitude. The total geographical area of tahsil is 1605.61 sq. km which contributes 9.22 per cent of the district. According to 2011 census, the total rural population of tahsil was 284841 consisting 114 villages and eight circles.

Data Base and Methodology:

For the present research paper data has been collected through both the sources primary and secondary. Primary data has been collected through census reports, questionnaires, interview methods, observations. Secondary data is the collection from district census hand book, district statistical abstract, Gram Panchayat Office, Tahasil, Panchayat Samiti Office, Zilla Parishad Office different books, journals, internet and topographical sheets. The primary and secondary data thus collected is processed. The processed data is presented in the form of table, graphs, and diagrams. The suitable statistical techniques are used in to analysis the population distribution of rural settlements.

Circlewise Distribution of Rural Population in Shrigonda Tahsil

Circle is group villages created by the district administrators for the smooth functioning of administration and to collect the revenue. According to the census of 1991, Shrigonda tahsil has only three circles. They are - Belwandi, Mandavgan and Shrigonda. As per the census report of 2001 Shrigonda tahsil has got four circles. They are - Belwandi, Mandavgan, Shrigonda and Kasti. The census of 2011 shows that the tahsil has got eight circles which are - Belwandi, Mandavgan, Shrigonda, Kasti, Pedgaon, Chimbhale, Deodaithan and Kolgaon. However the number of villages are constant i.e. 114.

According to the census report of 1991, the total rural population of Shrigonda Tahsil was 2,14,060. Among the three circles (Belwandi, Shrigonda, and Mandavgan), Belwandi Circle, with 45

settlements had the highest population (80,479). Mandavgan Circle has 33 settlements, and it had the lowest population (58,894). Table 1 shows the Circlewise distribution of population and average population size of villages (1991). The average population size more in Shrigonda circle (2074) and below taluk average in Mandavgan circle (1784).

Table 1 Circlewise Distribution of Population (1991)

Sr. No.	Circle	Population	Average Population	No. of Settlements
1	Belwandi	80479	1877	37
2	Mandavgan	58894	1784	33
3	Shrigonda	74637	2074	36
Total		214060	1877	114

Source: Compiled by the Researcher



Fig.no.1 shows the circlewise population of Shrigonda tahsil (1991)

The 2001 census report indicated that Shrigonda Tahsil had four circles, i.e., Belwandi, Mandavgan, Shrigonda, and Kasti. Kasti Circle had the largest population (79,873). The number of villages in this circle was 29. The lowest population was that of Mandavgan Circle (48,779), which had 25 villages. Table 2 and fig. 2 shows Circle wise distribution of population and average population size of villages (2001). In Kasti circle average population size is more (2754) than tahsil average (2204) and in Mandavgan and Shrigonda average population size is below tahsil average. Kasti circle had average population more because it has good fertile soil, water supply and low land area. Mandavgan and Shrigonda circles had less average size of population because lack of irrigation facilities, soil is not also good fertile compare to Kasti circle.

Table 2 Circlewise Distribution of Population (2001)

Sr. No.	Circle	Population	Average Population	No. of Settlements
1	Belwandi	66560	2218	30
2	Mandavgan	48779	1951	25
3	Shrigonda	56120	1870	32
4	Kasti	79873	2754	27
Total		251332	2204	114

Source: Compiled by the Researcher

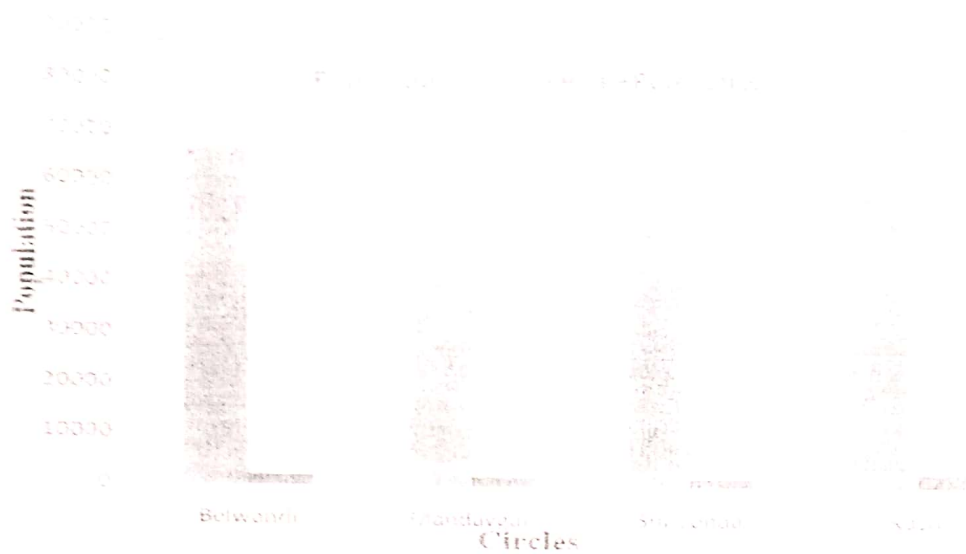


Fig. 2: Circlewise Population of Shrigonda Tahsil 2011

In 2011, there were eight circles in the study region. Belwandi Circle had the largest population (45,366). The number of villages in this circle was 11. Mandavgan Circle had the smallest population (25,423), and the number of villages was 12. Table 3 shows Circlewise distribution of population and average population size of villages (2011). Fig. 3 shows the Circlewise population of Shrigonda tahsil (2011). In 2011 average population size is more in Belwandi circle (4124) and less average population size found in Shrigonda circle (1614). Maximum number of settlements found in Shrigonda circle and minimum number of settlements found in Mandavgan circle. Average population size of the study region is 2621. Kasti, Chimbhale, and Belwandi circles have more average population size than the tahsil and other five circles are below the tahsil average.

Table 3 Circlewise Distribution of Population (2011)

Sr. No.	Circle	Population	Average Population	No. of Settlements
1	Shrigonda	30677	1614	19
2	Pedgaon	39291	2619	15
3	Kasti	40376	3364	12
4	Chimbhale	35401	2950	12
5	Belwandi	45366	4124	11
6	Deodaithan	33467	2091	16
7	Mandavgan	25423	2118	13
8	Kolgaon	33500	2093	16
Total		283501	2621	114

Source: Compiled by the Researcher.

The census reports of 1991, 2001, and 2011 reveal a continuous growth in the population. Between 1991 and 2001, the population increased by 15,326, with the growth rate being 17.41%. During 2001–2011, the population increased by 33,809 and the average growth rate was 13.46%.



Fig. 3: Circlewise Population of Shrigonda Tahsil 2011

Conclusions

In Shrigonda tahsil there are 114 settlements and eight circles. Comparative analysis of the 1991, 2001 and 2011 shows that the continuous growth in the population. Between 1991 and 2001, the population increased by 15,326, with the growth rate being 17.41%. During 2001-2011, the population increased by 33,809 and the average growth rate was 13.46%. In 1991, the total rural population of Shrigonda Tahsil was 2,14,060. Among the three circles (Belwandi, Shrigonda, and Mandavgan), Belwandi Circle, with 45 settlements, had the highest population (80,479). Mandavgan Circle has 33 settlements, and it had the lowest population (58,894). The 2001 census report indicated that Shrigonda tahsil had four circles, i.e., Belwandi, Mandavgan, Shrigonda, and Kasti. Kasti Circle had the largest population (79,873). The number of villages in this circle was 29. The lowest population was that of Mandavgan Circle (48,779), which had 25 villages. In 2011, there were eight circles in the study region. Belwandi Circle had the largest population (45,366). The number of villages in this circle was 11. Mandavgan Circle had the smallest population (25,423), and the number of villages was 12. The average population of the study region has been increasing during the study period. In 1991 the average population size of the study region was 1877, in 2001 it was 2204 and in 2011 it is 2621. It means average population of the rural settlements have been increasing during the course of time. In the entire study region population distribution is uneven. Circles like Belwandi and Kasti had more population distribution and Mandavgan circle has less population distribution. For population distribution some geographical factors playing major role like fertile soil, water availability, surface, transportation network, location and site. Kashti and Belwandi circles have such types of favorable condition compare with other circles so population distribution is more and average size of population of settlements are also more.

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