

A Geographical Analysis of Religious Structure in Kolhapur District (M.S.)

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Abstract:

India is one of the most diverse religious country of the world. Hindu is a major religious community of India. Its account shares about 80 percent population to total population of the whole nation. After Hindu, Muslim is second largest religious group and its account about 14 percent. Christian, shikh, Jain, Buddhist and other religious community also found in India. The present paper is based on secondary data. The main aim of the present paper is to study the religious structure in Kolhapur district. According to 2011, census data Hindu (87.34) is largest papules community of the Study region after that followed by Muslim, Christian, shikh, Jain, Buddhist and other religious community respectively.

Key Words: Religion, Population, Community, etc.

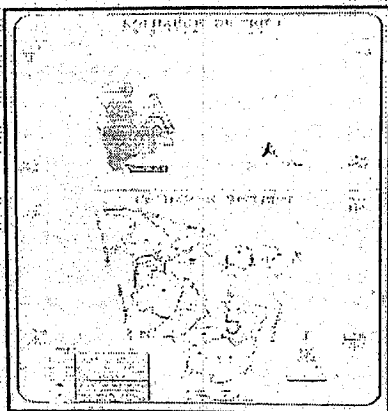
Introduction:

Since that advent of British rule in India religious movements such as Brahme Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, Arya Samaj etc. were started, which brought about some revolutionary changes in the Hindu social organization such as abolition of sati remarriage of widows, education of females some property rights to woman changes in the system of worship, caste relation etc. The government brought many changes in the Hindu law after Independence. The Hindu Marriages Act, 1955, the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, etc. are some of the legislations similarly, there has been some control over the utilization of income from the religious institutions in some states, some new types of sects such as Mahesh Yogi's Creative Intelligence movement. Brahm Kumaris followers etc. might have brought some changes in the Hindu religious system. However, the majority of the Hindu population follows the old religious beliefs and practices without brining much change in their moral character and thinking. Here it will be sufficient to state that for rapid social and economic development some reinterpretation of Hindu religious books and change in the method of religious teaching to the masses will be essential. Social and Religion too has a role to play in economic development. Some of the tenets of religion were misinterpreted in villages. For example, the theory of Karma was taken in a fatalistic sense.

Objective: The main objective of the present paper is to examine the religious structure in Kolhapur district

Database and Methodology:

The present paper is based on Secondary Source of data. The data is collected from various sources which includes both published and unpublished books, government publication and private publications. Secondary data has been obtained from Zillah parishad, Panchayat samiti, Municipal corporation, District gazetteers, district statistical department, socio economic review and district statistical abstract of Study region district. Collected data is processed and presented in the tabular forms.



Study Area: Location Map Kolhapur District

Fig. No.1

Kolhapur district is situated in the Southern part of Maharashtra. It is located in between 15° 42' 30" to 17° 11' 25" North latitude and 73° 43' 10" to 74° 43' 45" East longitude. Kolhapur district is surrounded by Sangli district to the North, Karnataka State to the East and South, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts to the West. The Sahyadri ranges to the West and Varna River to the North form the natural boundaries. For the administrative purpose, the district is divided into 12 tahsils i.e. Shahuwadi, Panhala, Hatkanangale, Shirol, Karvir, Bavda, Radhanagari, Kagal, Bhudargad, Ajra, Gadhinglaj and Chandgad. The total population of the district is 38,

76,001 persons, as per 2011 census, it constitutes 3.45 percent population to the state total. The geographical area of district is 7746.40 square kilometer, which constitutes 2.52 percent of state.

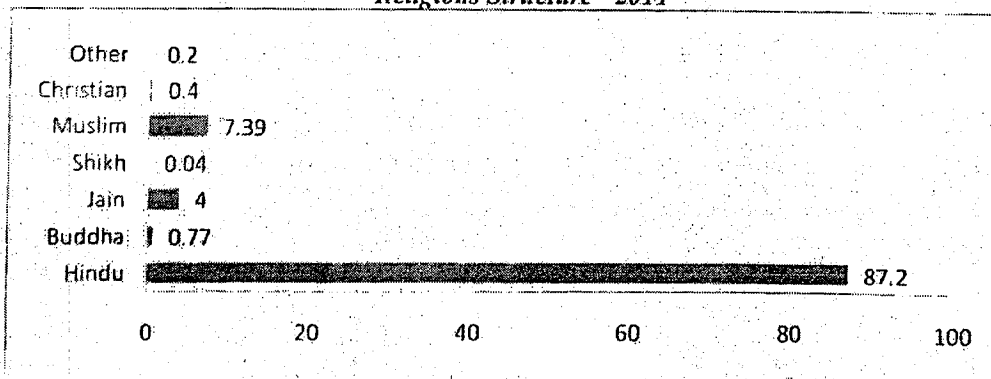
Distribution of Religious Population in Kolhapur District:

Table No. 3.15 shows religion wise population in 2001 to 2011 of Kolhapur district. Out of total population of study region the population of Hindu in 2001 was maximum and it was 87.34%. The minimum population was of Shikh it was 0.05%, population of Buddha 1.07%, Jain 4.18% and Muslim 6.75%. Similarly, the religion wise population in 2011 shows that the population of Hindu is maximum and i.e. 87.20% and minimum population is of Shikh religion and it is 0.04%. The population was Buddha 0.77%, Jain 4.00%, Muslim 7.39%, and others 0.20%.

**Table No.3.15: Kolhapur District: Religion wise Population
 2001 to 2011**

Sr. No.	Religion	2001	2011
1	Hindu	3077263 (87.34)	3379906 (87.20)
2	Buddha	37937 (1.07)	29766 (0.77)
3	Jain	147285 (4.18)	154882 (4.00)
4	Shikh	2082 (0.05)	1570 (0.04)
5	Muslim	236875 (6.75)	286558 (7.39)
6	Christian	16078 (0.45)	15573 (0.40)
7	Other	5647 (0.16)	7746 (0.20)
Total		3523162	3876001

Source: Socio-Economic Abstract of Kolhapur District, 2002 to 2012
 Religious Structure - 2011



From above explanation it is observed that total population of Hindu religion in 2001 was 87.34% and in 2011 is 87.20%. It is clear that there is decrease in growth rate of Hindu religion. The reason behind this decrease in growth rate may be education, literacy, use of contraceptives, family planning scientific approach and nuclear family. In opposition the population Muslim religion in 2001 was 6.75% and in 2011 is 7.39%. That is there is increase in growth rate of Muslim religion. The reason behind this growth may be non-education, illiteracy, religious beliefs, negligence about family planning.

Spatial Variation of Religious Structure: 2011

Table No. 2. Spatial Variation of Religious Structure:2011

Tahsil	Religion						
	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Shikh	Buddhist	Jain	Other
Shahuwadi	94.04	3.15	0.09	0.02	2.53	0.05	0.12
Panhala	96.09	1.95	0.71	0.02	0.95	0.18	0.09

Hatkanangle	78.49	12.67	0.21	0.04	1.11	7.20	0.28
Shirol	69.53	12.81	0.15	0.04	1.52	15.62	0.33
Karvir	88.81	7.16	0.61	0.08	0.48	2.68	0.19
Gaganbavda	94.55	5.17	0.00	0.01	0.10	0.14	0.03
Kagal	93.99	4.07	0.26	0.03	0.28	1.23	0.13
Radhanagari	96.77	2.17	0.20	0.01	0.29	0.37	0.19
Bhudargad	96.20	2.51	0.62	0.01	0.23	0.32	0.11
Ajra	91.42	7.16	0.94	0.02	0.28	0.13	0.05
Gadhinglaj	92.88	5.34	0.26	0.01	0.19	1.08	0.25
Chandgad	95.26	3.79	0.67	0.02	0.11	0.03	0.12
Kolhapur Total	87.20	7.39	0.40	0.04	0.77	4.00	0.20

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table No.2. Shows Spatial variation of religious structure in Kolhapur district for 2011. In 2011, Hindu is largest community in the Kolhapur district, the proportion of Hindu population in Kolhapur district was 87.20 percent. The high Hindu population was observed in Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Panhala, and Chandgad tahsil with above 95 percent; moderate Hindu proportion was found in Shahuwadi, Gaganbawada, Ajra and Gadhinglaj tahsil with 90-95 percent and the low Hindu population was recorded in Shirol, Hatkanangle and Karvir tahsils with below 90 percent. Muslim is second largest religious group in Kolhapur district, its account 7.39 percent to total population. Highest Muslim population proportion was observed in Shirol tahsil (12.81) followed by Hatkanangle (12.67) and low proportion was found in Panhala tahsil with 1.95 percent. The high proportion of Christian population was observed in Panhala tahsil and lowest was observed in Shahuwadi tahsil. The proportion of Shikh are below the percent in all the tahsils in Kolhapur district. Buddhist population was high in Shahuwadi, Hatkanangle and Shirol tahsil with above 1 percent, remaining population was below one percent population. Jain is another major religious group of Kolhapur district, its account 4 percent of the total population. High Jain population found in Shirol tahsil with 15.62 percent followed by Hatkanangle. Other religious account was less than one percent in all the tahsils in Kolhapur district.

Conclusion:

- Hindu is largest religious group in the study region, compare to last decade the proportion of Hindu population was declined by 87.34 percent to 87.20 percent.
- Only Muslim community population was increased from 2001 to 2011, while other community population was declined.
- The high proportion of Buddhist population occurs in Hatakangle and Shirol tahsil in Kolhapur district.
- Jain population was high in Hatakangle and Shirol tahsil due to historical pilgrimage temples are situated in that tahsils.
- Shikh and Other religious account was less than one percent in all over the district.

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