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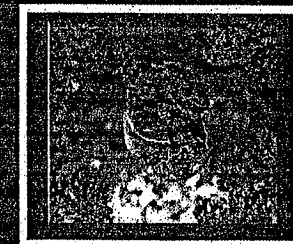
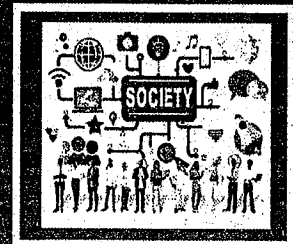
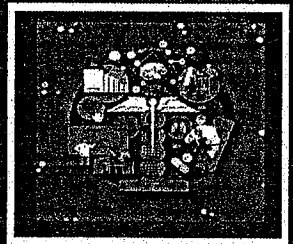
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Trend and Distribution of Population Density in Rural Settlements of Shrigonda Tahsil: A Geographical Analysis

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Abstract:

A study of trend and distribution of population density of rural settlements is of immense help in rural planning and development. There is great impact of physical factors on the density of rural settlements. The physiography, adequate water supply, and fertile soil play vital role in the distribution of population density in rural settlements in ShrigondaTahsil of Ahmednagar district. There are 114 rural settlements in the study area. The present paper makes a geographical study of the population density and distribution in rural settlements of eight circles of ShrigondaTahsil.

Keywords: Settlements, Density, Circle, Distribution, Physiography.

Introduction:

Human settlements are, in fact the first adjustment of man with environment. Therefore, the distribution of rural settlements and population is closely linked with the basic ecological environment. Hence in the selection of settlement sites, man is usually guided by both the attractive and restrictive forces of physical setting such as topography, geology, relief, drainage climate, soil types and natural vegetation. The main forces for the distribution of rural settlements and population density in the study region are the low land area, fertile soil, water availability and climate.

The population density of any region represents man's relationship with environment therefore; the study of population density is an important aspect of geography. In the recent times administrators, geographers and researchers are paying more attention on the study of rural population. The systematic and scientific study of population density is very helpful for planning and development.

Choice of the study Region:

For the present research paper, Shrigondatahsil of Ahmednagar district is selected as a study region. Ahmednagar district has 14 Talukas. The district has 1584 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 Ahmednagar district. It lies between 18° 27' 18" N to 18° 51' 54" N latitude and 74° 23' 24" E to 74° 52' 00" 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 114 villages in the tahsil is 284841.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the impact of topography on the population density of rural Settlements.
2. To study the circle wise population density distribution

Database and methodology:

For the present research paper data has been collected through sources of primary and secondary. The primary data has been collected through questionnaires and interview method. The secondary data has been collected through, census hand book, socio-economic abstract of Ahmednagar district, Grampanchayat office, Tahsil office, books, and research papers. The primary and secondary data thus collected is analysed. The processed data is presented in the form of table and maps.

Population Density in the Study Region

According to the census report of 1991 the population density was 140 per sq km. It increased upto 165 per sq km in 2001. And in 2011, it is 187 per sq km. In 1991 Shrigonda circle had the highest density which was 179 per sq km. and the lowest density was in Mandavgan circle. It was 107 per sq km.

Table No. 1. Population Density in 1991

Sr.No.	Circle	Population	Area in Sq.Km	Density
1	Belwandi	80479	553	145
2	Mandavgan	58894	549	107
3	Shrigonda	74687	418	179
Total		214060	1520	141

Source: Compiled by the researcher.

In the year 2001, among the four circles, Kasti circle had the highest density which was 237 per sq km. and the lowest density was in Mandavgan circle. It was 116 per sq km. Kasti circle has fertile soil and good irrigation facility as well. Mandavgan circle lacks irrigation facility and some part of this circle is hilly area, there is no any agro-based or other industry in Mandavgan circle hence, settlements as well as population density is low in this circle. Table no.2 shows the density distribution of four circles of study region.

Table No. 2 Population Density in 2001

Sr.No.	Circle	Population	Area in Sq.Km	Density
1	Belwandi	66560	388	171
2	Mandavgan	48779	420	116
3	Shrigonda	56120	376	149
4	Kasti	79873	336	237
Total		251332	1520	165

Source: Compiled by the researcher.

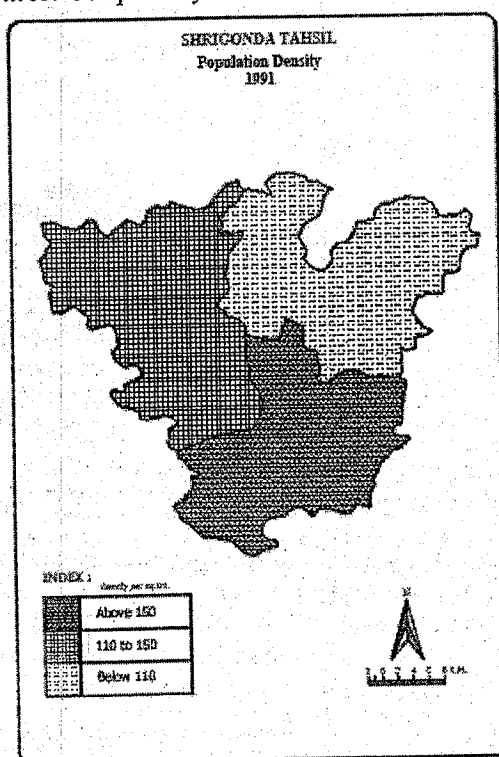


Fig.1 Population density of Shrigondatahsil 1991

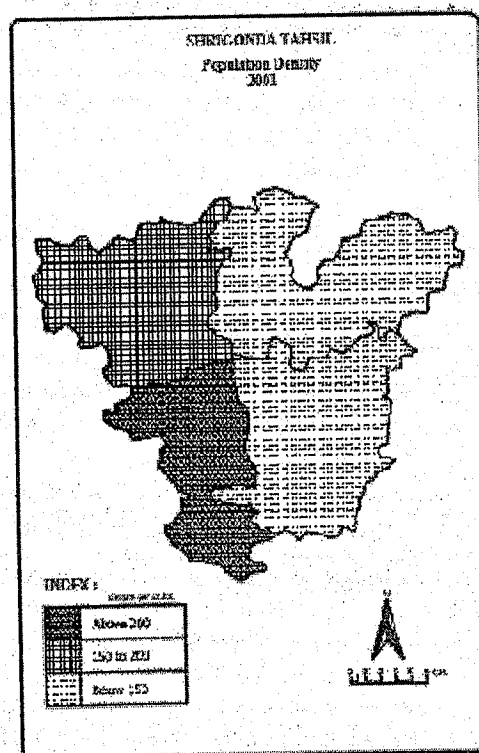


Fig.2 Population density of Shrigondatahsil 2001

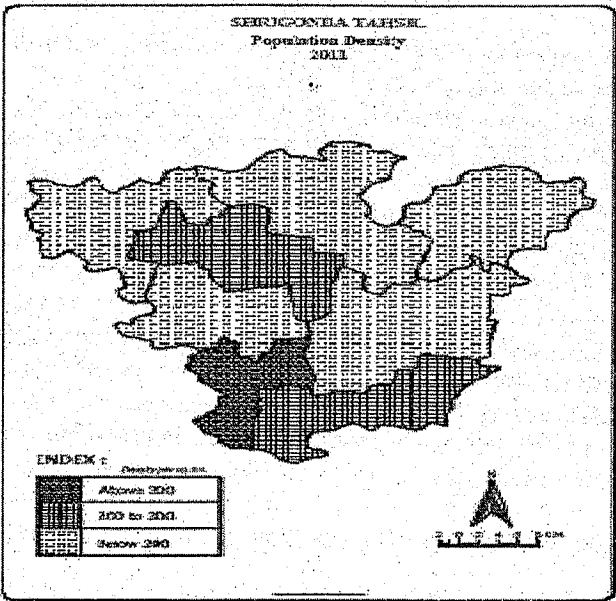


Fig.3Population density of Shrigonda tahsil 2011

As per the census report of 2011and table.3, among the eight circles, Kasti circle has the highest density which is 351.7 per sq km. and the lowest density is in Kolgaon circle. It is 125 per sq km.

Table No. 3: Population Density in 2011

Sr.No.	Circle	Population	Area in Sq.Km	Density
1	Shrigonda	30677	213.4	150.5
2	Pedgaon	39291	186.9	210.15
3	Kasti	40376	114.8	351.7
4	Chimbhale	35401	184.4	191.9
5	Belwandi	45366	179.3	253
6	Deodaithan	33467	182.7	183
7	Mandavgan	26763	190.9	137
8	Kolgaon	33500	267.6	125
Total		284841	1520	187

Source: Compiled by the researcher.

Kasti circle has good fertile soil, irrigation facility and low land area due to these favorable condition more population is distributed in this circle .Pedgoan ,Chimbale and Belwandi circles have moderate density ,these circles have fertile soil and irrigation facility for agriculture activity. Kolgoan and Mandavgan circles have low density distribution. These circles have sallow soil, hilly ranges and adverse irrigation facility hence, population density is low in comparision with Kasti, Pedgoan, Belwandi and Chimbale circles. With the help of Fig1, 2, and 3, it has been shown that the highest density is found in south and south west part of study region. Low density is found in north and north east part of the study region, middle part of the study region has moderate density.

Conclusion:

The population density distribution in the study area is uneven. In southern part of study region, density of population is more compared with central part and northern part of the region. Physiography of the study region plays vital role in the distribution of population density.In northern

and northern east part of the study region, population density is low than southern part, because these northern part lies under hilly ranges and also maximum villages are non-irrigated, means permanent irrigation facilities are not available; soil is also not so fertile due to these factors, settlements distribution is less. On other hand, southern part is well irrigated as well as it has good fertile soil and slope of area is also low to gentle, transportation network is also good. Majority large size rural settlements lay southern and central part of the study region. These are Kasti, Limpangaon, Belwandi, Yelpane, and Madhewadgaon. In 1991, the rural population density in Shrigonda tahsil was 140 per sq km. It increased up to 165 per sq km in 2001. And in 2011, it is 187 per sq km. In 1991, Shrigonda circle had the highest density which was 179 per sq km. and the lowest density was in Mandavgan circle. It was 107 per sq km. In the year 2001, among the four circles, Kasti circle had the highest density which was 237 per sq km. and the lowest density was in Mandavgan circle. It was 116 per sq km. In 2011, among the eight circles, Kasti circle has the highest density which is 351.7 per sq km. and the lowest density is in Kolgaon circle. It is 125 per sq km. Comparison of three decades data shows that southern part means Kasti circle has highest population density.

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