



## CLASSWISE CHANGE IN NUMBER OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA, 1981-2001

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### A B S T R A C T

*Human settlements as a cultural landform shows the man and environment relationship. Cultural landscape modified with changing man and nature relationship. Rural settlements are changing even in recent period are directly or indirectly influenced by physical as well as cultural factors. Hence, the present paper intends to study change in number of rural settlements in different classes from 1981 to 2001 and to identify the direct and indirect factors affecting on it. For this purpose spatial tahsil wise and sizeclasswise changes in rural settlements and affecting factors has been analysed and correlated with relief, forested area, rural density, net sown area etc. Kolhapur district is situated in the extreme southern part of Maharashtra State and lies between 15043' north to 17017' north latitude and 73040' east to 74042' east longitude. For the present analysis data has been collected from District Census Handbook-year 2001 and Socio-Economic Abstract of Kolhapur district. Study reveals that the rural settlements has been transfer to upper size category.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

Shelter has a dominant impact on the built environment while at the same time its characteristics are influenced by the natural environment (Mandal, 2001). Settlements are not static features however they are dynamic in nature. Attention is turning to the social and economic changes now taking place in rural areas of the developing countries (Okafor, 1977). The dynamics of rural growth is related to various geographical factors and changing economic situation (Kumbhar, 1997). It is clear that change in rural settlements affected by physical factors and its relationship of change in rural settlements with economic factors is very complex. Economic development of the region is really helpful to the growth of rural settlements? The study of change in number is not a single criterion study change of rural settlements. Is class wise change in number of rural settlements helpful for this? Are the settlements itself affects their own growth pattern? The answer of these questions can be found by studying temporal change in rural settlements.

### 2. OBJECTIVES:

Keeping in view of above, present investigation aims to study the spatial variation class wise change in rural settlements from 1981 to 2001 in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

### 3. STUDY AREA:

Kolhapur district situated in the extreme southern part of Maharashtra state has been selected as a study area

for the present paper. It lies between from 150 43' North to 170 17' North latitude and from 730 40' East to 740 42' East longitude (Fig. 1). It is surrounded by Sangli district to the north, Belgaum district of Karnataka state to the east and south, and Ratnagiri and Sindhudurga districts to the west. The Kolhapur district has an area of 7685 sq. km. with comprising 12 tahsils. In general the physiography of the district may be grouped in three parts i.e. (1) The Sahyadri hills in a north-south direction (2) The Plateau situation to the east of the Sahyadri hills and (3) The River valley basin of Varna and Panchaganga. The variations are due to the geological complexity of the region and varied Geomorphological evolutions (Deshpande, 1971). The climate of Kolhapur is generally temperate. The average annual rainfall varies widely from about 600mm in Shirol tahsil in the east to 6000mm in Bavada tahsil in the west. As per the census 2001, the total population of Kolhapur district is 35, 23,162 (455 persons per sq. km.) whereas the decadal growth rate (1991-2001) of population is 17.85%. However, 70.19% of total population lives in rural areas.

### 4. DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

Present study based on secondary sources of data collected from District Census Handbooks 1981 to 2001 of Kolhapur District, Socio-economic abstract, 2006-07 and Ground water survey and development agency, Government of Maharashtra. Various statistical techniques have been employed in the present in-

investigation. The decadal growth rate has been complied to identify change in number of rural settlement. Change of rural settlements of population size categories has been also studied. For this purpose rural settlements have been classified in six classes (Table 1).

**5. ANALYSIS:**

Classes of Rural Settlements According to Population Size

Classes	Population Range
I	Above 10000
II	5000-9999
III	2000-4999
IV	500-1999
V	200-499
VI	0-200

**5.1. Change in Number of Rural Settlements:**

Number of rural settlements determined by physical, economic and cultural factors and in recent period political factor also play vital role in this respect. The total number of rural settlements of the study area has been decreased by 12 in the decade 1981-1991. The number of rural settlements has observed decreased rather than increasing because of jurisdictional changes during 1981-1991. In this decade 53 villages of Bavada tahsil transferred to Vaibhavvadi tahsil of newly created Sindhudurg district and two villages transferred to Sawantwadi tahsil of same newly created Sindhudurg district. Besides this, one village (Shahapur) merged in Ichalkaranji municipality. If transferred villages are not considered, about 43 villages increased in the decade 1981-1991. Karvir tahsil experiences higher increase and Shahuwadi tahsil decreased in number of rural settlement (Fig. 2 & Table 1).

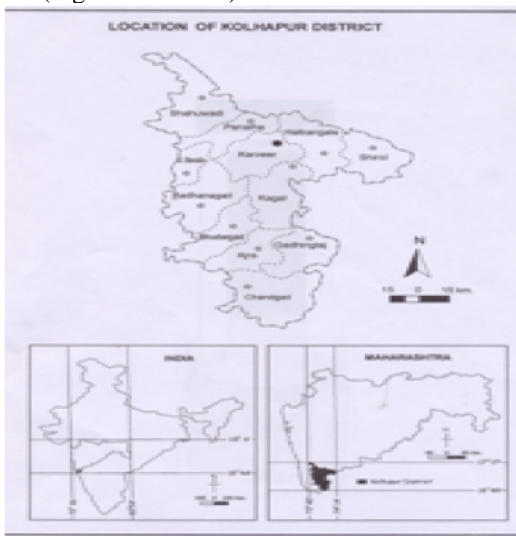


Table - 2 Kolhapur District: Change in Number of Rural Settlements, 1981-2001

Sr. No.	Tahsil	No of Rural Settlements			Change in Number			Change in Percent		
		1981	1991	2001	1981-1991	1991-2001	1981-2001	1981-1991	1991-2001	1981-2001
1	Shahuwadi	139	138	133	-1	-5	-6	-0.72	-3.62	-4.32
2	Panhalga	121	130	130	9	0	9	7.44	0.00	7.44
3	Hatkanangle	59	60	58	1	-2	-1	1.69	-3.33	-1.69
4	Shirol	51	53	54	2	1	3	3.92	1.89	5.88
5	Karvir	114	128	125	14	-3	11	12.28	-2.34	9.65
6	Gagan Bavda	92	39	39	-53	0	-53	-57.61	0.00	-57.61
7	Kagal	84	86	86	2	0	2	2.38	0.00	2.38
8	Bhudargad	102	107	114	5	7	12	4.90	6.54	11.76
9	Ajra	89	93	96	4	3	7	4.49	3.23	7.87
10	Gadhinglaj	90	93	91	3	-2	1	3.33	-2.15	1.11
11	Chandgad	146	144	156	-2	12	10	-1.37	8.33	6.85
12	Radhanagari	113	117	114	4	-3	1	3.54	-2.56	0.88
	Study Area	1200	1188	1196	-12	8	-4	-1.00	0.67	-0.33

Source: Based on District Census Handbook, Kolhapur District, 1981.

However in the decade 1991-2001, eight rural settlements increased in the study area, where only hilly tahsils i.e. Chandgad, Ajra and Bhudargad experiences increase in number of rural settlements and other tahsils have declining number of rural settlements due to merging or villages in urban centers.

Fig. 2 shows change in number of rural settlements in different tahsils of study area where tahsils are arranged with increasing hilly area. Fig. 2 clearly indicates that the change in number of rural settlements is increased with increasing hilly area. The cause and nature of change in number of rural settlements of western tahsils is different than eastern tahsils. Western tahsils has high change (positive or negative) and contrary to this, eastern tahsils has small rate of change (Table 2). Undulating physiography and remoteness not allows to increasing size of rural settlements and that's why new settlements created to satisfy shelter need of increased population of western tahsils. On the other hand in eastern tahsils; shelter need of increasing population, either satisfied by increasing size of exited rural settlements or by migration of people to nearby urban center.

**5.2. Size Class Wise Change In Rural Settlements:**

The cause behind change in total number of rural settlements can be understood by studying change in number of rural settlements in different classes. It is noteworthy that geographical factors affects of size of settlement in the study. In general the western part has low sized settlements and eastern part has high sized settlement and there is significant change in classwise number of rural settlements. From 1981 to 2001, the rural settlements of class I and II (high population size) are increased due to natural growth of population in class III and IV settlements. The increas-

ing population of class V and VI settlement results their conversion in upper class and that's why, the number of rural settlements in class V and VI has decreased during study period (Table 3). In short, increase in number of rural settlements in the first three upper class categories and last three lower class categories has decrease in number of rural settlements. It is interesting to note that, the growth rate of population is low in western part due to undulating topography and low development; which results, comparatively low increase of upper class settlements in western tahsils than tahsils located in eastern part of study area. In 1981, lower sized settlements are mostly found in western part of study area and they converted in medium size category. Hence, western part experiences high decrease in lower class rural settlements. On the other hand, eastern part had small number of class V and VI settlements in 1981, and so there is low decrease of class V and VI settlements in eastern part of study area from 1981 to 2001 (Table 3).

Table - 3 Kolhapur District: Change in Number of Rural Settlements in Different Classes, 1981-2001 (Fig. in %)

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Population Size Classes						Total
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
1	Shahuwadi	0.00	1.00	6.00	11.00	-23.00	-1.00	-6.00
2	Panhala	0.00	6.00	1.00	11.00	-9.00	0.00	9.00
3	Hatkanangle	8.00	2.00	-7.00	-3.00	0.00	-1.00	-1.00
4	Shirol	3.00	8.00	0.00	-7.00	-1.00	0.00	3.00
5	Karvir	2.00	4.00	23.00	-19.00	1.00	0.00	11.00
6	Gagan Bavda	0.00	0.00	-3.00	-25.00	-21.00	-4.00	-53.00
7	Kagal	0.00	5.00	13.00	-14.00	-2.00	0.00	2.00
8	Bhudargad	0.00	0.00	6.00	26.00	-21.00	1.00	12.00
9	Ajra	-1.00	0.00	2.00	4.00	5.00	-3.00	7.00
10	Gadhinglaj	0.00	4.00	8.00	-11.00	-1.00	1.00	1.00
11	Chandgad	0.00	0.00	6.00	14.00	-5.00	-5.00	10.00
12	Radhanagari	0.00	1.00	7.00	2.00	-8.00	-1.00	1.00
	Study Area	12.00	31.00	62.00	-11.00	-85.00	-13.00	-4.00

6. CONCLUSION:

Judicial factors, affects on change in number of rural settlements in the study area. Physiography also affects on it, because high change in number of settlements is associated with undulating physiography of western part. Eastern part has low change in total number of settlements but it has size class wise changes. In general, there is increasing number of class I and II settlements and decreasing number of class V and VI settlements in the study area. But in particular, geographical factors create the spatial variations in class wise change of rural settlements. High development of eastern part results, high increase in upper class settlements and small decrease in lower class settlements. Contrary to this, low development and undulating nature of western part forced to high decrease in lower class settlements and little increase in upper class settlements.

Kolhapur District : Change In No. of Rural Settlements, 1981-2001

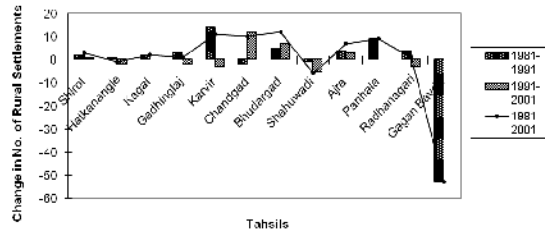


Fig. 2

Kolhapur District : Changes in No. of Rural Settlements In Different Size Classes, 1981-2001

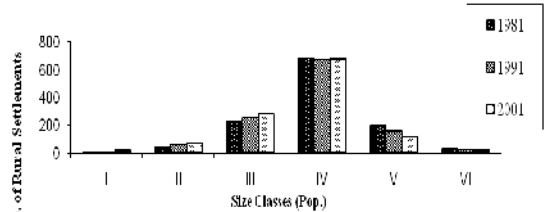


Fig. 3

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