



## URBANIZATION: A CASE STUDY OF RAIGAD DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA

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### Abstract

Urbanization is considered as a significant indicator of multidimensional transforming process and epitome of a society advancing towards industrial and technological enrichment with modernization. The process of concentration of population in urban areas as a result of the politico-historical commercial, industrial, and infrastructural development has favored the modern spurt of urban development in India. Maharashtra has witnessed highly accelerated pace of urbanization due to change in socio-economic development. The area chosen for the study is a part of Konkan division in Maharashtra. The process of urbanization in the region is relatively recent, initiated with emergence of Mumbai as multifarious center. Polarization of nascent industries, massive influx of immigrants and introduction of Konkan railway open "Corridor" for urbanization in the area. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) introduced by the Indian Government in April 2000 is also corroborating the process of urbanization in the district. As per 2001 census, the level of urbanization in the district 24.24 per cent as against 42.67 percent in Maharashtra out of the total urban population in the district more than quarter is concentrated in only two cities, namely Panvel and Khopoli. It becomes imperative to analyze the spatial and temporal variation in urbanization from 1971 to 2001. The percentage of urban population for each tahsils is computed. Ratio of urban population and the rate of urban growth are some of the quantitative techniques are used in this study.



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### Introduction

Urbanization is one of the most striking phenomenon of the 21 st century. It is quadrilateral process of pandemic nature with economic, socio, cultural, historical and political dimensions. It is considered as a process of change in life style and socio- economic transformation. Urbanization throughout the world are spatially, temporally and culturally varied. As per latest data half of world population resides in urban area and shows increasing trends. India has a tradition of urban life and civilization even then it has always remained rural predominantly. In 2001, just 27.28 per cent population of India lives in urban centers of different magnitudes which was comparatively much lower when compared with world's urban population 47 per cent and 38 per cent in Asia. Maharashtra shows much faster rate of urbanization in India and it accounts 47.66 per cent urban population which is even more than

world's average while in Raigad district meagar 24.22 per cent population is recognized as urban which accommodated in 26 urban centers. The term urbanization has been defined and measured in different ways, urbanization is the diffusion of economic innovations and also a process of social change. Eldridge (1942), considered urbanization is a process of population concentration and crucially linked with migration. The process of urbanization in India is the consequences of industrialization (Bhagat, 2002) and even in Maharashtra but it is result of politico historical orientation and natural growth of population within urban centers in Raigad district. Urban growth in any region takes place either through pull or push factors that leads movement of people from rural areas to towns, smaller towns to bigger towns or cities and peripheral village to towns or from mega cities to their fringe area or hinterland or a satellite area.

### **Study Region**

Raigad district is one of the coastal district encompasses the northern one fourth of Kokan region in Maharashtra state. Covering 7152 square kilometer area between the latitudes of 17° 15' and 19° 80' north and longitudes of 72° 51' to 73° 40' east. It stretches along 240 kilometer of a narrow strip of land ensconced between the Arabian Sea and Western Ghats. It is flanked by Thane district on the north and Ratnagiri in the south, Pune district forms its eastern border and is washed by Arabian Sea in the West. According to 2001 census, the total population of the study region is 2,207,029. persons out of which 1,117,628 are male and 1,090,301 are female distributed in 15 tahsils of in 26 towns or cities and about 1960 villages. The rural population 1672194 which constitutes 75.76 per cent whereas the urban population was 534835 which accounts 24.24 per cent. The density of population is 309 persons per square kilometer. The annual growth rate of population has 2.1 per cent. 24.22 per cent population in this region lives in urban area. Broadly, the region witness a hot and humid climate and it is drained by swift flowing short rivers. Though agriculture is prime source of economy various small and large scale industries are spreads all over the district. It has well developed transportation network which help in the process of urbanization in the region.

### **Objectives**

The major objectives of the preset research paper is to identify and analyze the trends in urban growth pattern in the post-independence period in study region.

### **Data base and Methodology**

To accomplish the above objectives, secondary data has been obtained from District Census Handbook, (1961 to 2001), and different sources published by governmental agencies

namely Municipal Councils. The data have been analyzed using Location Quotient has been computed by using its formula:

$$\text{Location Quotient} = \frac{\text{Urban population of tahsil} \times 100}{\text{Total population of tahsil}}$$
$$\frac{\text{Urban population of Raigad District} \times 100}{\text{Total population of Raigad District}}$$

### **Growth of Urban Population**

Maharashtra is comparatively more urbanized state in India. It constituted 42.67 per cent urban population in 2001 as against 27.78 per cent national average. Raigad district, a satellite district in Mumbai metropolitan region. the urban population (153590) of study region was 12.08 per cent in 1971 when compared to (96028) 10.56 per cent during first census (1951) Meager 1.44 per cent growth in urban population in Raigad district was registered in a period of 20 years (Table 1) and just 3.55 per cent during early three decades of census. The urban growth was absolutely stagnated between (1951 to 1981). On the contrary this was the period of highest growth in rural population throughout the country. In the next 20 years 11.11 per cent growth was registered. The initial stage of urbanization (1951 to 1981) was associated with poor industrialization and primitive trade and commerce and historical orientation. 1991 to 2001, the early phase of new economic policy known for a trio-liberalization, privatization and globalization that corroborate process of urbanization in study region particularly, because of administrative and tourist functions. The level of urbanization in Raigad district during 2001 was comparable to that of Maharashtra in 1951. In 2001, just 24.22 per cent population accommodated in 26 urban centers of different magnitude and pace.

**Table : 1 Population Change Since – 1951**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Urban Population</b>	<b>Decadal Variation</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1951	96,028	---	10.56
1961	106,681	+10,653	10.07
1971	152,590	+45,909	12.08
1981	209,876	+57,286	14.11
1991	328,640	+118,764	18.00
2001	534,835	+206,195	24.22

Source : Census of India, 1991-2001

### **Regional Dimensions**

Spatial (Tahsilwise) growth of urban population presented in Table 2. Which show urban population in different tahsils in study region for 1971 ranged between 9.53 per cent of the total population in Rohatahsil to 25.14 per cent for the comparatively urbanized tahsil Khalapur. Murud was the second most urbanized tahsil with 21.77 per cent urban population and Panvel at third position, now emerged as highly urbanized tahsil with 48.36 per cent urban population and Khalapur tahsil was the next most urbanized tahsil with (32.73) percent. Uran tahsil stand at third position with (24.23) per cent whereas Mangaon the least urbanized tahsil registered only (3.68) per cent urban population now surpass to the district headquarter in 2001 with 9.30 per cent urban population. By 1991 the focus of urbanization has shifted to Panvel tahsil which emerged as the most urbanized tahsil with 38.80 per cent urban population and further increased to 48.36 per cent in 2001. On the contrarily, remaining tahsils could not even cross the national average of 27.78 per cent. The similar trends were observed in 1991. Out of 15 tahsils 10 tahsils could not even cross the 20 per cent limit of urban population.

**Table : 2 Tahsilwise Urban Population : 1971-2001**

Sr. No.	Name of Tahasil	Decadal Percentage			
		1971	1981	1991	2001
1	Alibag	13.04	12.99	13.03	8.79
2	Karjat	15.53	16.54	15.43	24.62
3	Khalapur	25.14	32.73	31.19	40.41
4	Mangaon	---	3.68	3.61	9.30
5	Mahad	10.18	10.57	11.39	16.91
6	Mhasala	---	---	12.62	14.36
7	Murud	21.77	20.11	18.83	17.42
8	Panvel	19.29	20.20	38.80	48.36
9	Pen	11.73	12.42	14.53	17.09
10	Poladpur	---	---	---	9.75
11	Roha	9.53	10.88	10.69	21.23
12	Shrivardhan	19.51	19.83	18.93	17.85
13	Sudhagad	---	---	10.00	13.00
14	Uran	17.68	24.23	22.66	22.21
15	District	12.08	14.12	18.01	24.22

Source : Census of India, 1971-2001

Table 2 represent tahsilwise level of urbanization from 1971-2001. It is found that, Panvel tahsil has recorded highest proportion of urban population accounts 48.36 per cent and Khalapur followed to it by (40.41). The lowest urban population has been found in Alibag tahsil (8.79) per cent though it perform as district headquarter. Khalapur tahsil registered highest proportion of urban population in 1971 and 1981 and shows seven percent

growth in 1981 but. Murud and Shrivardhantahsil showed continuous declining trend. In 1971, 21.77 per cent population were registered as urban. It decline upto 17.41 per cent in 2001. This was the case of Shrivardhan also. The large scale outmigration of productive population is responsible for this declined trend. Interestingly, in 1971 Shrivardhan was the third largest urban populated tahsil in the study region it account 19.83 per cent urban population. Mangaon tehsil had first time registered two urban center with 3.61 per cent urban population which was lowest among all tahsils in the study region in 1981. The majority of tahsils have urban population between 10 to 20 percent while Roha, Uran and Karjattahsils registered 20 to 30 per cent urban population in 2001. In 1991 Khalapur and Panvel tahsils were found in 30 to 40 per cent of urban population. The northern part of study region is more urbanized than southern part because the north part is very close to Mumbai and has good accessibility and secondly, due to hike in real estate prices in Mumbai therefore many middle class people prefer to live in the adjoining tahsils Panvel, Karjat and Khalapur which are affordable.

**Table : 3 Level of Urbanization**

Urban Population	Number of Tahsils	Tahsils with percentage of Urban Population	Number of Tahsils	Tahsils with percentage of Urban Population
		<b>1971</b>		<b>1981</b>
Less than – 10	1	Roha (9.53)	1	Mangaon (3.68)
10 – 20	7	Mahad (10.18), Pen (11.71), Alibag(13.04), Karjat (15.53), Uran (17.68), Panvel (19.29) and Shrivardhan (19.51)	6	Mahad (10.57), Roha (10.88), Pen (12.42), Karjat (16.54), Shrivardhan (19.83)
20 – 30	2	Khalapur (25.14) Murud (21.77)	3	Murud (20.11), Panvel (20.20, Uran (24.23), Khalapur (32.73)
30 – 40	-	-	1	Khalapur (32.73)
Above – 40	-		-	-

Source : Census of India 1971-1981.

**Table : 4 Level of Urbanization**

Urban Population	Number of Tahsils	Tahsils with percentage of Urban Population	Number of Tahsils	Tahsils with percentage of Urban Population
		<b>1991</b>		<b>2001</b>
Less than – 10	1	Mangaon (3.61)	3	Alibag (8.79), Mangaon (9.30), Poladpur (9.75)
10 – 20	9	Mahad (10.18), Pen (11.71), Alibag(13.04), Karjat (15.53), Uran (17.68), Panvel (19.29)	5	Sudhagad (13.00), Mhasala(14.36), Mahad (16.19), Pen (17.09), Shrivardhan (17.85)

		and Shrivardhan (19.51)		
20 – 30	1	-	3	Roha (21.23), Uran (22.21), Karjat (24.62)
30 – 40	2	Khalapur (31.19), Panvel (38.80)	-	-
Above – 40	-	-	2	Khalapur (40.41), Panvel (48.36)

Source : Census of India, 1991-2001

Table 3 and 4 reveals the distribution patterns of urban population in Rigad district from 1971 to 2001 and to measure the degree to which a tehsil has more or less urbanized population than its share. It is found that in 1971 there were 13 tahsils out of which urban population is observed in 10 tahsils. And three tahsils such as Mangaon, Mhasala and Sudhagad are predominantly remained rural in nature. In 1981 6 tahsils accounts 10 to 20 percent urban population, three tahsils between 20 to 30 per cent and Khalapur tahsils range the highest urban population (32.73) per cent. Majority (9 out of 14) tahsils in 1991 ranges urban population between 10 to 20 per cent. Khalapur and Panvel these two tahsils are comparatively more urbanized and the proportion of urban population is 31.19 and 38.80 per cent respectively. This scenario change in 2001, Alibag, Mangaon and Poladpur these three tahsils are found comparatively less urbanized where as Khalapur and Panvel remained highly urbanized tahsils at the same time Roha, Uran and Karjat represent moderately urbanized tahsils.

**Table : 5 Tahsilwise Location Quotient : 1971-2001**

Name of Tahsil	Location Quotient for Urban Population			
	1971	1981	1991	2001
Alibag	1.07	0.91	0.72	0.36
Karjat	1.28	1.17	0.85	1.01
Khalapur	2.08	2.31	1.73	1.66
Mangaon	--	0.26	0.20	0.38
Mahad	0.84	0.74	0.63	0.69
Mhasala	--	---	0.70	0.59
Murud	1.80	1.42	1.04	0.71
Panvel	1.59	1.43	2.15	1.99
Pen	0.97	0.87	0.80	0.70
Poladpur	--	---	--	0.40
Roha	0.78	0.77	1.06	0.87
Shrivardhan	1.61	1.40	1.05	0.73
Sudhagad	--	--	0.55	0.53
Tale	--	--	---	--
Uran	1.46	1.71	1.60	0.91

Source : Compiled by Researcher



On the basis of Location Quotient (Table 5) it is observed that Alibag, Karjat, Khalapur, Murud, Panvel, Shrivardhan and Uran shows a higher concentration of urban population. The value of Location Quotient ranging between 1.07 to 2.08. The value of Location Quotient is less than 1.0 measured in Mahad and Rohatahsils which represents less concentration of urban population. These values changed in the next three decades. In 2001, only three tahsils, Khalapur, Panvel, Karjat representing higher value of Location Quotient and remaining eleven tahsil representing less value that represent dispersed trend of urban population concentration. Most surprisingly, Alibag tahsil, as a district headquarter as Alibag shows lowest value of Location Quotient (0.36) Khalapur tahsil shows greatest concentration of urban population in 1971 and 1981 but it lose its position in next decades. Here, Panvel emerges with greatest value of Location Quotient in 1991 and 2001 the value is 2.15 and 1.99 respectively.

### **Conclusion:**

The low level of urbanization is a persistence phenomenon in the study region although the study region comes under the shadow of Mumbai metropolitan area. Introduction of new economic policies in 1991 mark by continuous outmigration of rural population into the Mumbai Metropolitan Area. Southern part of study region remain less urbanized because of poor accessibility. Better accessibility and nearness to Mumbai Metropolitan Area, construction of Mumbai Pune Highway helps urbanization process in north part of study region. There are disparities and unevenness in the growth of urbanization, urban centers and overgrown villages or shifting of lower orders to higher order urban centers is the common phenomenon in the study region.

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