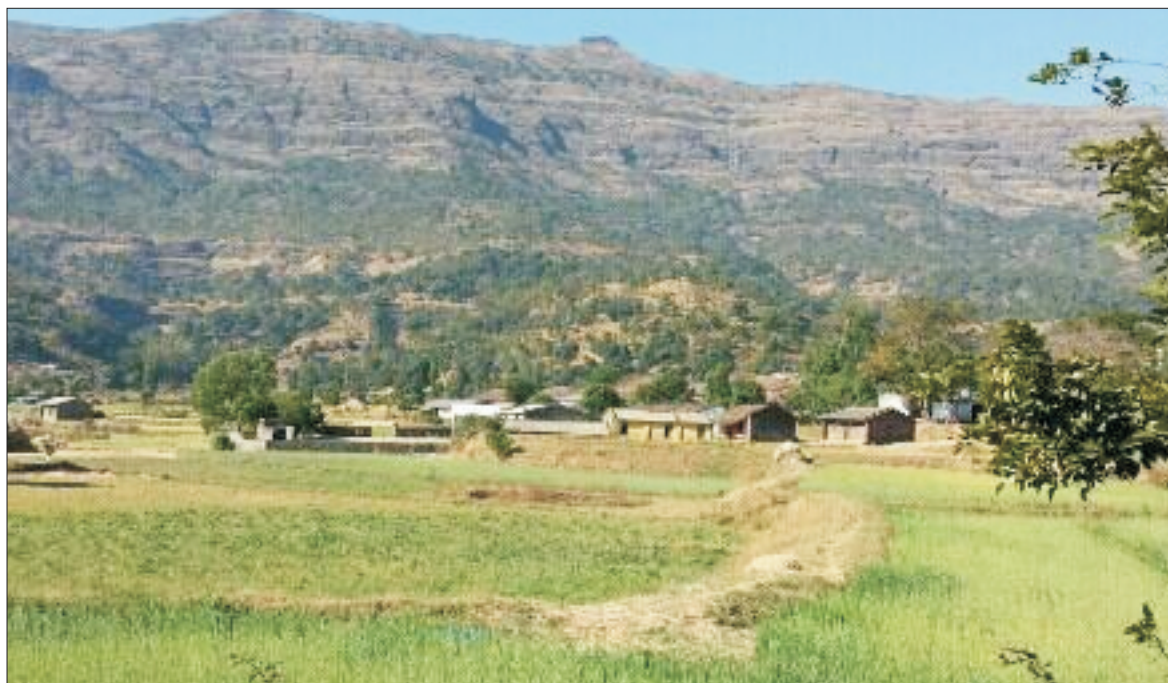




POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS



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ABSTRACT:

An attempt has been made in this paper to study the population characteristics of the Ahmednagar district. Population is the root of all prospectus and problems of world. The observation reveals that, there is uncontrolled growth for last 30 years. Population growth rate needs control. To overcome this, certain remedies should be undertaken.

KEY WORDS: Population, Characteristics, Distribution.

INTRODUCTION:

Geographical studies are mainly concerned with the special distribution of geographical phenomena. In Geography, the phenomenon of population growth or change has special significance. Population change or growth is an important index of a region's economic development, social

awakening, historical and cultural background and political ideology. Population growth is, thus, pivotal to the region's demographic dynamism. The growth of population is one of the major factors related with man's habitation. In other words, it flows in size from time to time and people move around temporarily or permanently both within the administrative boundaries and across them. Thus the understanding of population change is the key to understanding the entire demographic structure of the entire area.

STUDY REGION:

Ahmednagar district is the largest district of Maharashtra state in western India. This district is known for the town of Shirdi associated with Sai Baba. Ahmednagar district is part of Nashik Division. The neighbouring districts to Ahmednagar district are Solapur (South East - SE), Osmanabad (SE), Beed (SE), Aurangabad (NE), Nashik (NW), Thane (NW), and Pune (SW). In the 2011 census, Ahmednagar district recorded a population of 4,543,083. This gave it a ranking of 33rd among the districts of India (out of a total of 640). The district had a population density of 266 inhabitants per square kilometre (690 /sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 12.43%. Ahmednagar had a sex ratio of 934 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 80.22%

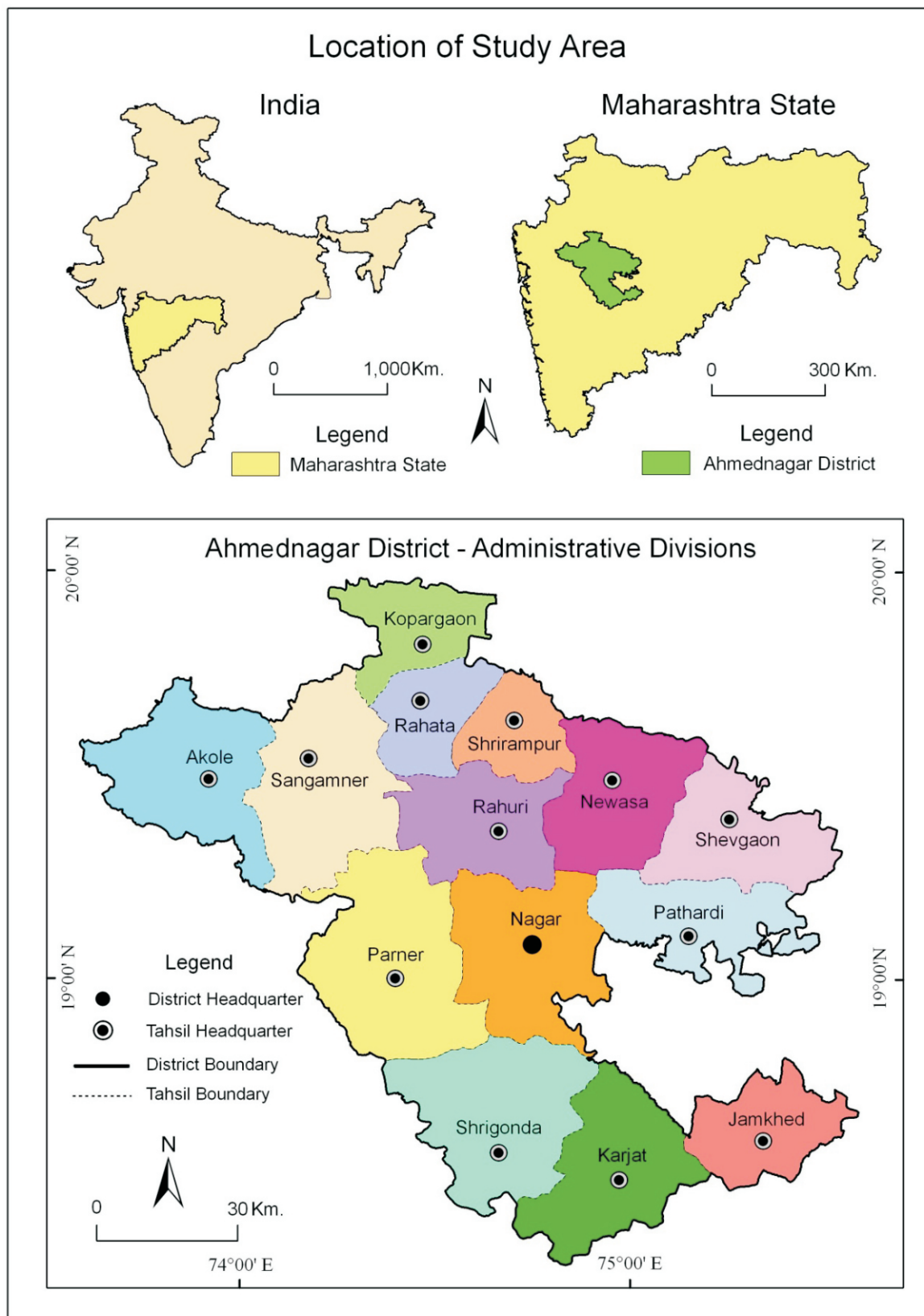
OBJECTIVES:

The present study has specific objective, i.e. To study and analyze the population of Ahmednagar district. The period considered for study was last 30 years. (Census 1981 to 2011)

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present work is based on secondary data pertaining to population of the district. All relevant published and unpublished records have been considered. The secondary data has been collected from district census hand book, Gazetteer, district statistical abstracts, socio-economic abstracts and from Census CD 2011.

With the help of population statistical data, table was prepared and analysis was done on its basis. Simple growth rate of population has been calculated to notice volume of change during last 30 years.



Analysis:

In case of Ahmednagar district, the regional analysis of growth of population has been shown in table 1. For better understanding, tahsilwise (14 tahsils) and census-wise (1991, 2001, 2011) data has been considered. This has helped researcher to compare the data with each other.

Table 1
Ahmednagar District: Tahsil-wise Growth of Population (1991-2011)

Sr. No	Tahsil	Population			Actual growth		Growth in percentage	
		1991	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1	Ahmednagar	482884	606690	684044	123806	77354	25.64	12.75
2	Akole	222153	266638	291950	44485	25312	20.02	9.49
3	Jamkhed	119278	134216	158380	14938	24164	12.52	18.00
4	Karjat	184331	205674	235792	21343	30118	11.58	14.64
5	Kopargaon	337387	277170	302452	-60217	25282	-17.85	9.12
6	Nevasa	273075	326698	357829	53623	31131	19.64	9.53
7	Parner	214064	246552	274167	32488	27615	15.18	11.20
8	Pathardi	185845	214872	258109	29027	43237	15.62	20.12
9	Rahata	-	288279	320485	-	32206	-	11.17
10	Rahuri	252570	294924	322823	42354	27899	16.77	9.46
11	Sangamner	354808	441439	487939	86631	46500	24.42	10.53
12	Shevgaon	170507	203676	245714	33169	42038	19.45	20.64
13	Shrigonda	235706	277356	315975	41650	38619	17.67	13.92
14	Shrirampur	340327	256458	287500	-83869	31042	-24.64	12.10
	District Total	3372935	4040642	4543159	667707	502517	19.80	12.44

Source: Census hand book 1991 & census CD (2001, 2011) of Ahmednagar District

It is observed that in the decade 1991-2001, the growth rate of population was 19.80 and during 2001-2011, growth rate of population decreased and reached to 12.44 percent.

It means the growth rate of population decreased with 7 percent. Though the overall growth rate of population is insignificant, there is considerable variation in the population growth rate at tahsil level. (Map No. 1).

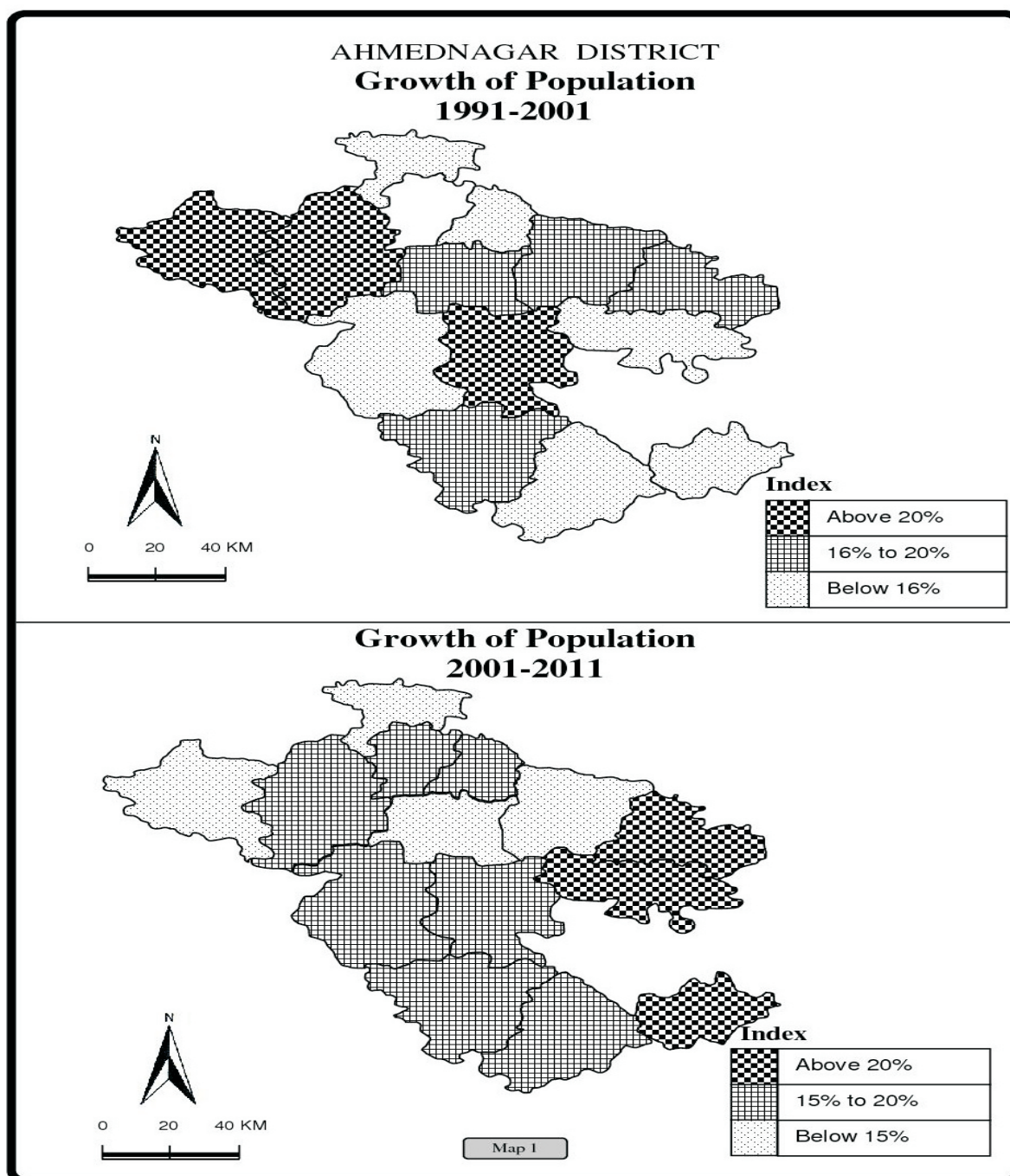


Table 1 and map 1 reveals that, during 1991 - 2001, below 16% growth rate of population is observed in Pathardi (15.62%), Parner (15.18%), Jamkhed (12.52%) and Karjat tahsil (11.58%) whereas 16% to 20% change in population has been recorded in Rahuri (16.77%), Shrigonda (17.67%), Shevgaon (19.45%) and Nevasa (19.64%) tahsil. Above 20% change in growth rate of population has been recorded in Akole (20.02%), Sangamner (24.42%) and Ahmednagar tahsil (25.64%).

Shrirampur tahsil (-24.64) and Kopergaon (-17.85%) tahsil has shown negative change because of territory changes. Many villages due to administrative reason have been transferred to these tahsil.

During 2001-2011, below 10% growth in population has been observed in Kopergaon (9.12%), Rahuri (9.46%), Akole (9.49%) and Nevasa (9.53%) tahsils whereas 10% to 15% growth has been

recorded in Sangamner (10.53%), Rahta (11.17%), Parner (11.20%), Shrirampur (12.10%), Ahmednagar (12.75%), Shrigonda (13.92%) and Karjat tahsil (14.64%). Above 15% population growth has been noticed in Jamkhed (18.00%), Pathardi (20.12%) and Shevgaon (20.64%) tahsil.

CONCLUSION

Overall analysis reveals that, tahsils like Shrigonda, Parner, Rahuri, Nevasa, Akole, Ahmednagar and Sangamner has shown positive growth whereas Shrirampur, Kopargaon, Jamkhed, Pathardi, Karjat and Shevgaon has shown negative growth rate of population.

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