

International Multidisciplinary
Research Journal

*Indian Streams
Research Journal*

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2230-7850

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A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF GROWTH OF MARKET CENTRES IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT



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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made in this paper to study the growth rate and its characteristics of market centres in the Ahmednagar district. Market centres are the basic and root level centre of the economic and commercial activities. The observation reveals that, many factors have influenced the growth of market centres in the region.

KEYWORDS :Market centres, Growth Rate, Growth Characteristics.

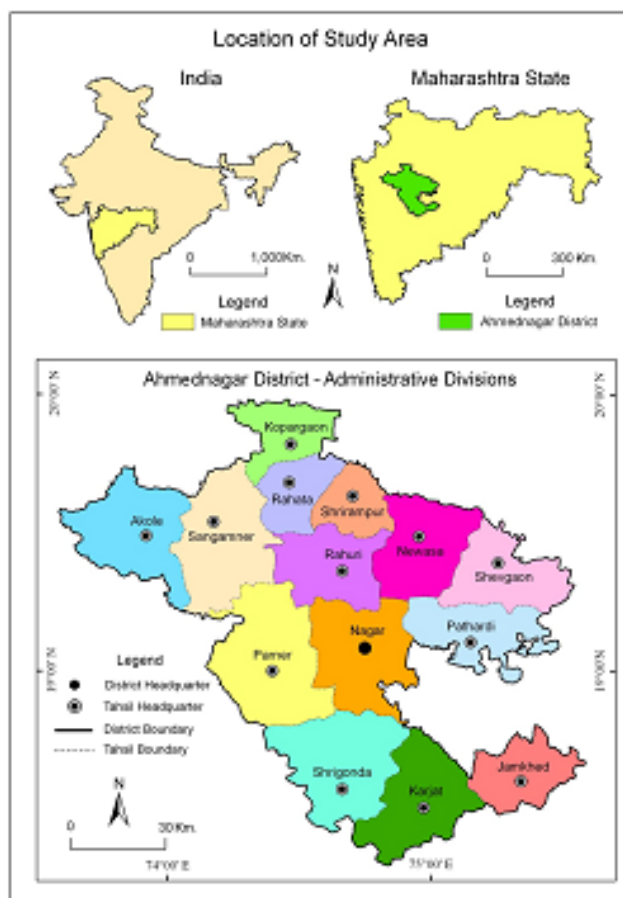


INTRODUCTION :

Geographical studies are mainly concerned with the special distribution of geographical phenomena. In case of market centres, origin, growth, development, and spatial distribution are the result of combined effect of various factors. It means the growth of market centres are influenced by physical, cultural, historical and many other unique qualities prevailing in the region. In recent years, rural markets have acquired significance in countries like China and India, as the overall growth of the economy has resulted into substantial increase in the purchasing power of the rural communities.

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 prime objective of the present research paper is to evaluate the growth rate of market centres in Ahmednagar district in last 4 decades.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present work is based on primary and secondary data pertaining to number of market centers. All relevant published and unpublished data has been considered. Primary data is collected through intensive field work. The secondary data has been collected from district census handbook, Gazetteer, district statistical abstracts of the district.

ANALYSIS:

For the comparative analysis of growth trend in number of market centres in Ahmednagar district, collected data for 1981 to 2011 has been depicted in table 1.

Table 1
Census-wise Number of Market Centres in Ahmednagar District

Tahsil	Census-wise Numbers			
	1981	1991	2001	2011
Akole	10	7	5	4
Sangamner	7	8	6	4
Kopargaon	10	8	8	6
Rahta	14	14	10	9
Shrirampur	11	12	8	6
Nevasa	14	14	10	6
Shegaon	6	5	4	2
Pathardi	4	4	2	1
Ahmednagar	9	7	7	5
Rahuri	10	6	7	6
Parner	5	5	3	2
Shrigonda	6	6	4	4
Karjat	6	6	5	3
Jamkhed	5	4	4	2
District Total	117	106	83	60

Source: Census Handbook of Ahmednagar District, 1981, 1991 & Field survey

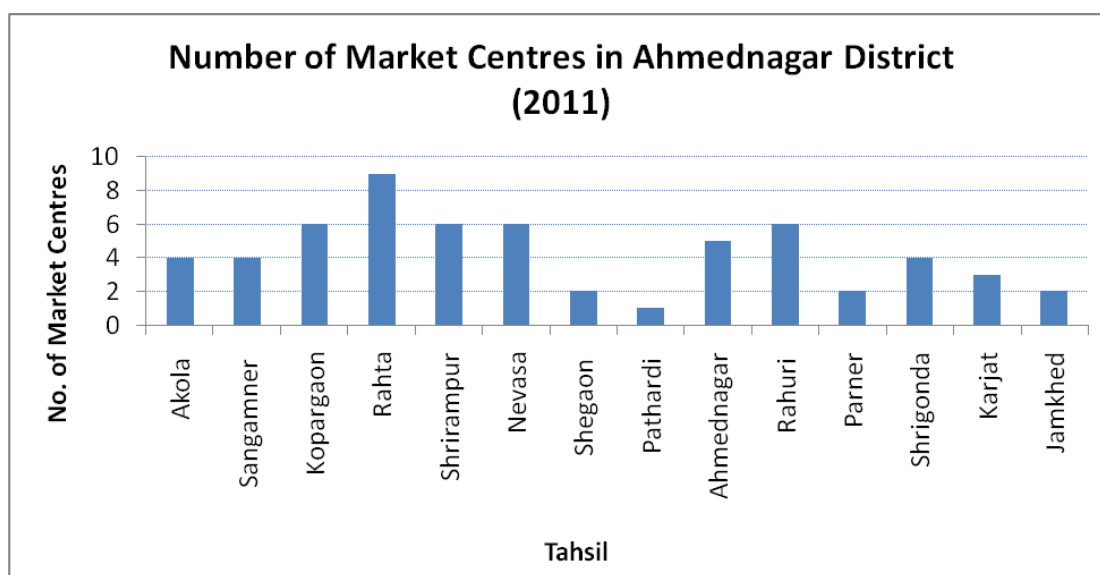


Table 1 reveals that there were total 60 market centres in the district in the year 2011. In the year of 1981, there were 117 market centres in the Ahmednagar district which decreased upto 106. In 1991, number of market centres again decreased upto 83 in 2001 and last 60 in 2011.

In the year 1981, it is observed that, highest number of market centres were observed in Rahta and Nevasa (14) tahsil whereas lowest number of market centres were observed in Pathardi (4). In the year 1991, highest number of market centres were observed in Rahta (14) and Nevasa (14) tahsil whereas lowest number of market centres were observed in Jamkhed (4) and Pathardi (4). In 2001, highest number of market centres were observed Rahta (10) and Nevasa (10) tahsil whereas lowest number of market centres were observed in Pathardi tahsil (2). At last in 2011, highest number of market centres were observed from Rahta (9) tahsil whereas only one market centre has been observed in Pathardi tahsil. (1).

The effect of modernization can be seen on the number of market centres in the region. Day by day the number of market centres in the rural area is decreasing. Because peoples are directly attached to sub-district and district places in order to fulfill the needs. Many of the services like education, administration are easily available with sub-district and district place, so peoples prefer to avail the services from sub-district and district places instead of rural area. Transportation, communication facilities and some other civic facilities is also some of the prime determinants of the market centres. The places which are getting these facilities easily are growing and the market centers which are not getting these facilities are fighting for their existence.

CONCLUSION:

Overall analysis regarding growth trend of the market centres in the district reveals uneven tendency in the study region. The sub-district and district place has captured the rural market and they are decreasing. Mainly the effect of modernization is clearly seen on the market centres. The market centres having modern facilities are still and sound but in rural area the market centres are decreasing in lack of facilities. In future, it is necessary to provide all the basic and modern facilities to rural market centres in order to improve their service and finally for their existence.

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