



Spatio-Temporal Growth of Population in Ahmednagar District (MS)

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Introduction:

Population growth has played a significant role in a region's economic development, social awakening, historical and cultural background, and political ideology. Population growth is pivotal to the region's demographic dynamism. The understanding of population growth in an area holds the key to the understanding of the entire demographic structure of the area. The concept of population change or growth of population is often used to connote the change in number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time, irrespective of the fact whether change is negative or positive. Such a change can be measured both in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of percentage.

The growth of population in term of percentage is generally calculated by dividing the absolute change by the population at an earlier date and multiplying it by 100. Such a growth calculated with the help of actual population counts is known as actual rate of population growth. Geographers have often made use of the natural rate of growth of population.

Study Region (Ahmednagar District):

Ahmednagar district is the largest district of Maharashtra state in India. The district is well known for the town of Shirdi associated with Sai Baba. Ahmednagar district is a 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).

As per 2011 census, Ahmednagar district recorded a population of 4,543,083 which ranks of 33rd among the districts of India. The district had a population density of 266 inhabitants per square kilometer (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%.

Population Growth in Ahmednagar District:

Table 1 gives the details of population of district and its variation at each census since 1901.

Table No. 1

Population Growth in Ahmednagar District (Year 1901 to 2011)

Census Year	Population	Actual Change	Percentage Increase / Decrease
1901	821946	--	--
1911	927795	105849	12.88
1921	720709	-207086	-22.32
1931	971296	250587	34.77
1941	1125402	154106	15.87
1951	1413446	288044	25.59
1961	1779246	365800	25.88
1971	2273223	493977	27.76
1981	2712491	439268	19.32
1991	3372935	660444	24.35
2001	4040642	667707	19.80
2011	4543159	502517	12.44

Source : District Census Handbook 1991 & Census CD 2001, 2011

Table 1 reveals that, the population of Ahmednagar district at 1901 census was 821946 and according to the 2011 census the district has a population of 4543159. It clearly indicates that the population has increased by

5.53 times during last century. The lowest positive growth in the population of Ahmednagar district has been observed in the census of 1911, i.e. 12.44% only whereas the highest growth has been observed in 1931 census, i.e. 34.77%. Except the census 1921, there has been a remarkable change in the trend of population growth. The main cause of rapid growth of population is the decline in death rate and increase in birth rate due to availability of modern hygienic facilities. Upto independence, population growth rate was below 20% whereas after independence the growth rate reached upto 27.76%. After 1991 the growth trend of population has shown decrease rate. It further decreased in 2011, i.e. 12.44%.

All this analysis reveals that, right from 1901 census to latest 2011 census, the growth rate of population has shown abandon trend. Though the population is increasing steadily, but the growth rate is decreasing from last two decades. It is a good sign that the growth rate of population is decreasing, but it will take some time to decrease the growth rate. As the literacy is increasing and peoples are becoming aware population is increasing with low growth rate.

Spatial Distribution of Population:

The spatial distribution of population in the Ahmednagar district is shown table 2.

Table 2
Spatial Distribution of Population in Ahmednagar District
(Census 2011)

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Population
1	Ahmednagar	684044
2	Akole	291950
3	Jamkhed	158380
4	Karjat	235792
5	Kopargaon	302452



Sr. No.	Tahsil	Population
6	Nevasa	357829
7	Parner	274167
8	Pathardi	258109
9	Rahta	320485
10	Rahuri	322823
11	Sangamner	487939
12	Shevgaon	245714
13	Shrigonda	315975
14	Shrirampur	287500
15	District Total	4543159

Source: Census CD, 2011

Table 2 shows that, Ahmednagar tahsil has the highest population (684044) whereas the lowest population has been observed in Jamkhed tahsil (158380). Above 35000 population has been noted from the Ahmednagar tahsil (684044), Sangamner tahsil (487939), Nevasa tahsil (357829) whereas 25000 to 35000 population has been noticed from the Rahuri tahsil (322823), Rahta tahsil (320485), Shrigonda tahsil (315975), Kopargaon tahsil (302452), Akole tahsil (291950), Shrirampur tahsil (287500), Parner tahsil (274167) and Pathardi tahsil (258109). Below 25000 population has been noted from Shevgaon tahsil (245714), Karjat tahsil (235792) and Jamkhed tahsil (158380).

Conclusions:

On the analysis it is clear that, Ahmednagar district has enormous increase in the population for last census whereas imbalanced distribution of population among various tahsils of the district.



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