

Population Growth and Literacy in Akola District

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Introduction:

The growth of population in any area is determined by three basic factors mainly human fertility, human mortality and human mobility. The growth of population in any region is an index of its economic development, social awaking, and many other character. The difference between human fertility and mortality is called natural growth of population. There are many factors, which are responsible for increasing the natural growth of population. The trends of population growth are basic to the changes in the overall geographic personality of any area.

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The following formula is used to calculate the growth rate of population

$$r = \frac{P_n - P_0}{P_0} \times 100$$

Where r = growth rate of population
 P_n = current year population
 P_0 = base year population

Population Growth in Akola District:

Population growth after independence has been shown in table 1.

Table No. 1

Decadal variation of Population Since 1981 in Akola District. (in 1000).

Sr. No.	Decadade Year	Growth of population		
		General	Rural	Urban
1	1941-51	+4.76	+0.67	+22.28
2	1951-61	+25.6	+25.08	+27.02
3	1961-71	+26.24	+23.92	+34.44
4	1971-81	+21.71	+19.51	+26.74
5.	1981-91	+21.18	+15.16	+39.34

Source : - Computed by the author.

The decadal variation of Akola District is generally compared with other district. The growth of population in any region is an Index of its economic development, social awaking, and many other character. The trends of population growth are basic to the changes in the overall geographic personality of any area. We have taken in to consideration the last five decade (1951 to 1991). The growth rate of population has a great significant for the geographers. It further shows us that the trends of general rural and urban population growth rate vary from the one another during the span of fifty years. The trend of general population is from 4.76% to 21.18 % from 1951 to 1981. Again it was increased up to 26.24% in 1971 Rural population was decreased by 15.16% in 1981 to 1991. Urban population growth rate increased 39.34% to 22.28% from 1951 to 1991. Again growth rate of population decreased up to 21.71% during the decade 1981 to 1991.

Table 1 reveals that there is Tahsilwise variation in the growth rate of population during the period of fifty years. The highest growth rate of population was noticed in Akola Tahsil (34.15%). Pupulation of Akot, Murtizapur, Barshitakli, Karanja, Mahora, Mangrulpir, Washim, Risod, Malegaon, Patur, Balapur, Telhara, were 25.78 %, 16.77 %, 22.41 %, 17.89 % 22.14 %, 7.62 %, 20.03 %, 32.57 %, 24.19 %, 17.24 %, 22.89 %, 14.51 % , 14.91 % respectively in the year 1991.

Literacy :-

Literacy is necessity for all those who wish to practice the agricultural occupation on modern lines. Literacy and population growth are two factors which

bring about a change in agriculture. Therefore the worth of literacy has to be assessed by its effectiveness as an instrument of agricultural development on progressive lines.

Table No. 2

Tahsilwise Change in Literacy Percentage in Akola District.

Sr. No.	Name of Tahsil	Year-1982-83 % of Literacy	Year-1996-97 % of Literacy	Volume of Change in Literacy in %
1	Akola	56.65	75.35	18.70
2	Barshitakli	44.20	60.50	16.30
3	Akot	52.64	69.44	16.80
4	Telhara	49.73	65.89	16.16
5	Murtizapur	51.41	70.41	19.00
6	Karanja	48.85	67.10	18.25
7.	Mangrulpir	43.99	61.37	17.68
8	Manora	34.85	54.75	19.90
9	Washim	43.48	57.95	14.47
10	Malegaon	36.70	56.16	19.46
11	Risod	37.50	55.99	18.49
12	Balapur	49.08	67.13	18.05
13	Patur	45.39	62.54	17.15
	District Total.	47.81	65.83	18.02

Source:- Socio – Economics Abstract of Akola District 1982-83 and 1996-97.

In 1982 only 47.81 % of the total population in Akola district was literate as against the state average literacy rate of 45.56 %. (Table No. 3) reveals that the distribution of literacy was not uniform in 1982 and 1997 in the study region.

Literacy varies from Tahsil to Tahsil. In the study region the highest literacy percentage (56.65 %) was found in Akola Tahsil. While the lowest literacy (34.85 %) was found in Manora Tahsil in 1982. Below 60% literacy was observed in Manora 54.75 %, Washim 57.95 %, Risod 55.99 %, Malegaon 56.16 %, Whereas 60 % to 70 % literacy was noticed in Akot, Barshitakli, Karanja, Mangrulpir, Patur, Balapur and Telhara Tahsils in 1997.

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