



Composition of Population in Nashik District: A Geographical Analysis

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Introduction:

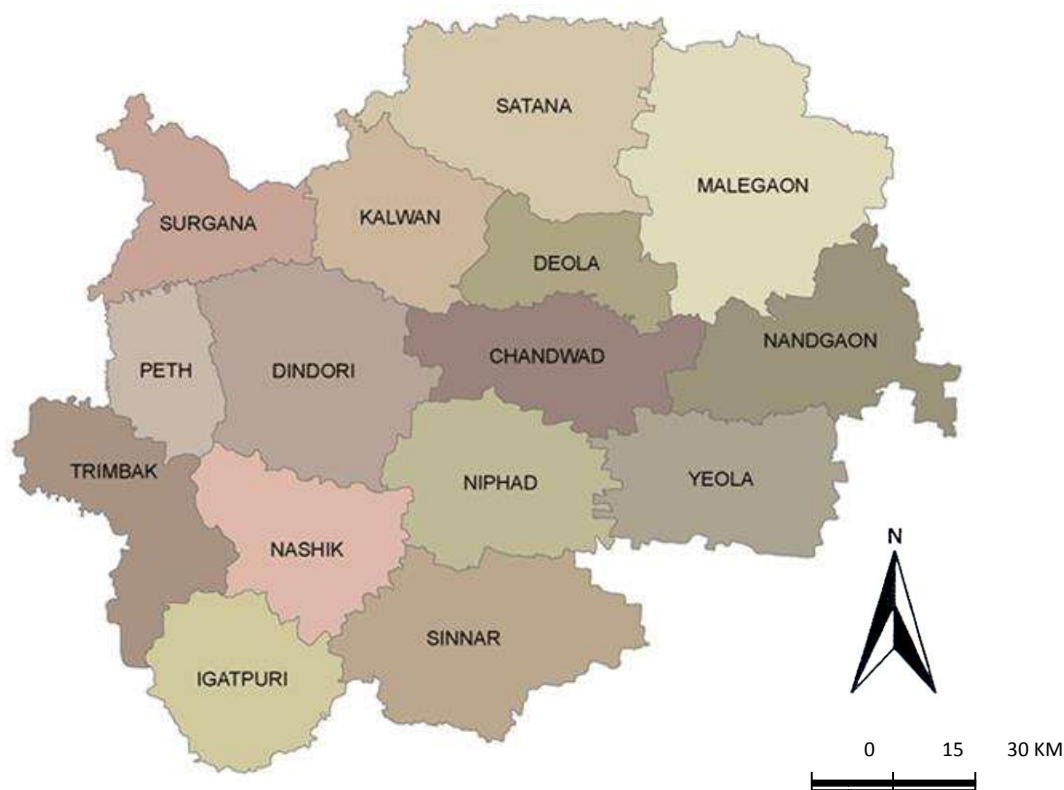
The term "Population Composition" actually refers to the characteristics of the particular group of people. The composition or characteristics of the population can be represented in many different ways. These characteristics include the distribution of the population across the number of men relative to the number of women and also across age structure of society. Indeed, Age and Sex composition of population are considered as most important aspects of the population composition. The data on the population by Age and Sex is of great importance for the health administrators and demographers for the planning of various developmental projects and initiating health programs. Basically, the classification of the Urban/Rural, sex and marital status with respect to age expose the basic characteristics of the population and also provides us with the disaggregated data for the target based groups. Actually, these characteristics create a profile of the population and also the very attributes that in real sense give population its particular character. The distribution within a group of people of specified individual attributes such as sex, age, marital status, education, occupation, and relationship to the head of household is called Population composition. Population is divided into two parts-rural and urban on the basis of the size and occupation of settlements. The rural population consists of small sized settlements scattered over the countryside. Urban population is one that lives in large size settlements i.e. towns and cities.

Study Region:

Nashik District is situated partly in the Tapi basin and partly in the upper Godavari basin. It lies between 19° 35' and 20° 52' north latitudes and 73° 16' and 74° 56' east longitudes. It is surrounded by Dhule District in the north, Jalgaon and Aurangabad Districts in the east, Ahmadnagar District in the south, Thane District in the south-west and Gujarat

State in the north-west. As per Census, 2011 the District has an area of 15,530 sq.kms and its population is 61,07,187. While the area of the District accounts for 5.05% of the total area of the State, the Nashik District population constitutes 5.43% of the total State's population. The density of population is 393. persons per sq. km. Among the 35 Districts of the State, the Nashik ranks 3rd in terms of area, 4th in terms of population and 7th in terms of density. The Nashik District derives its name from that of its headquarters, Nashik. It is situated on both sides of the sacred Godavari river and is well connected by rail, road and air.

Map of Nashik District



Distribution of Population in Rural-Urban Areas:

Total population of Nashik District according to Census, 2011 is recorded to be 61,07,187 comprising of 31,57,186 males and 29,50,001 females. Among the 15 Tahsils, Nashik Tahsil (17,55,491) is most populous and Peint Tahsil (1,19,838) is least populous.

Out of the total population of the Nashik District 35,09,814 (57.5%) persons are residing in rural areas and remaining 25,97,373 (42.5%) persons in urban areas. Although in



absolute numbers, the number of people living in rural areas has increased from 30,56,240 in 2001 to 35,09,814 in 2011, the proportion of population residing in rural areas has decreased from 61.2% in 2001 to 57.5% in 2011 Census, whereas that of urban has increased from 38.8% to 42.5% during the same period.

Size class and Status of Towns

As presented in Statement I of Town Directory, Towns are classified into six specific population size-classes according to the population recorded in decadal Censuses. The objective of such classification is to make a comprehensive analysis of various demographic parameters at lower constituent units of urban areas.

Population growth :

According to Census 2011, population of Nashik District is recorded as 61,07,187 showing an addition of 11,13,391 persons after 2001 Census with decadal growth rate of 22.3%. The decadal growth rate for the rural and urban areas of the District is 14.8 and 34.1 respectively. The percentage share of urban population has witnessed an increase from 38.8 in 2001 to 42.5 in 2011

Sex Ratio :

Overall sex ratio of the Nashik District is 934, which is comparatively better as seen that of State sex ratio which is 929. Within the Nashik District, sex ratio varies from 1001 in Surgana Tahsil to 904 in Nashik Tahsil. The sex ratios in rural and urban areas of the Nashik District are 945 and 920 respectively. In rural areas the sex ratio is highest in Surgana Tahsil (1003) and lowest in Nandgaon (918). In case of urban areas the sex ratio is highest in Malegaon Tahsil (965) and lowest in Sinnar Tahsil (885).

Literacy :

The literacy rate of the Nashik District is 82.31, which is 77.19 for rural and 89.12 for urban. Sex-wise the literacy rate is 88.17 among males and 76.08 among females showing a male-female gap in literacy rate of about 12.09.

Religion :

The collection of data on religion has been a part of Census since 1872. In the Pre-Independence Census reports, the data on religion was being presented for nine major religions namely Hindu, Muslim, Tribals, Christian, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi, Jew and



Others. However, since the Census 1951, the data on religion has been presented for six major religions namely Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist. Besides, all the other minor religions have been classified under the category of 'Others'. As per 2011 Census, 85.8% of the Nashik District population are Hindus and Muslims constitute about 11.3%. Remaining population consists of Buddhists (1.6%), Jains (0.6%), Christian (0.4%) and Sikhs (0.1%). The proportion of others is negligible.

Density :

The Nashik District shows a density of population of 393 per km², whereas it is 236 for rural and 4013 for urban.

Work Participation :

The Nashik District has reported work participation rate as 45.25%, constituting 41.31% main workers and 3.93% marginal workers. Male work participation rate is 55.31% and female work participation rate is 34.48%. Total work participation rate in rural is 53.03% and in urban it is 34.73%

Mother Tongue :

Mother tongue is the language spoken in childhood by the person's mother to the person. As per 2001 Census, Marathi is the main language of the Nashik District and is the mother tongue of 71.3% of the Nashik District population. In rural areas, Marathi speakers account for 77.5% and in urban areas 61.3%. Urdu is the second main language spoken in the Nashik District. It accounts for 8.5% of the total population. The proportion of Urdu speakers is substantially higher in urban areas (20.6%) than the rural areas (0.8%). The third main language spoken in the Nashik District is Ahirani having reported 7.6% speakers. It is mainly spoken in rural areas by 11.6% persons and only 1.3% in urban areas. The speakers of other languages namely Gujrati, Hindi, Marwari and Telugu are mainly concentrated in urban areas and the remaining two languages (Bhili/Bhilodi and Konkani) are concentrated in rural areas of the Nashik District.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

According to Census 2011, the Nashik District recorded 5,54,687 (9.08%) Scheduled Caste population and 15,64,369 (25.62%) Scheduled Tribe population. And the corresponding figures for Census 2001 were 4,26,516 (8.5%) and 11,94,271 (23.9%)



respectively. Similarly, the Nashik District recorded 2,31,171 (6.59 %) Scheduled Caste population and 13,99,280 (39.87 %) Scheduled Tribe population in the rural areas against their numbers 2,12,803 (7.0%) and 10,86,059 (35.5%) respectively in Census 2001. In urban areas, there were 3,23,516 (12.46%) Scheduled Caste population and 1,65,089 (6.36%) Scheduled Tribe population, whereas the respective figures were 2,13,713 (11.0%) and 1,08,212 (5.6%) in Census 2001.

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