CHAPTER IV

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION
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1.0 INTRODUCTION:

1.1.0 Study of any population is concerned not only with its size and characteristics, but also with its spatial distributional patterns and variations occurring at the point of time \(^1\) (1981). Here again it is necessary not only to describe how population is distributed spatially in terms of densities, composition and dynamics, but also to seek reasons for the patterns of this distribution and for spatial changes in these patterns, if any. A study of population distribution is thus descriptive as well as analytical.

1.1.1 The importance of studying population distribution by geographic areas becomes imperative when it is realised that small, heavily populated areas exist near virtually uninhabited or sparsely inhabited areas. Thus, these spatial patterns are not static but dynamic in the sense that there is every likelihood of nature of change. The analysis of the patterns of population distribution is fundamental to the understanding of population geography of an area, because it is the pattern of population distribution and density with which all other characteristics of population are intimately
related. The distributional pattern of human population does not merely reveal man's preferences and aversions in the occupancy but it is an eloquent expression of the synthesis of geographic phenomenon operating in the areas. Thus, the regional disparities in the distribution and density of population are to be understood in the context of the physical environment, type of economy, cultural patterns and past history of the areas. The geographer's task is to explain the diversity of this distribution in the context of nature of places in totality. The intent of present chapter is to understand the meanings lying behind the distributional patterns of population in Konkan excluding Bombay.

The geographical characteristics of Konkan are already discussed in Chapter No. II. Therefore, here we can discuss the other characteristics with regard to population distribution.

1.1.2 South Konkan comprises Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts which has less development in agriculture. The out-migrations hamper the development of the districts. Central Konkan comprises the Raigad district and Thane, Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar tahsils of Thane district. This central region has more influence of Bombay, which is an industrial as well as political capital of India. The whole greater Bombay as well as some
part of Thane district is rich with industries. This central region is culturally and socially more developed than other two regions of the Konkan. There is well developed communication by road and rail. This region has in-migrations in Thane industrial belt. North region comprises, the Thane district excluding Bhivandi, Kalyan, Ulhasnagar and Thane tahsils. This is again socially backward region of Konkan. There is more forest cover, industrially backward and pushing their people towards greater Bombay and Ahmadabad of Gujarat state. This north region is agriculturally and economically backward.

1.2.0 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION - 1981 :

According to 1981 census there were 42 tahsils in the study region and the total population of the region was 69.49 millions. According to area share and population share, it is revealed that (Table No. 4.1) the proportions of the population are not uniform within the Konkan region. Tahsils of south Konkan have relatively low concentration of population (29.9%) the tahsils of central Konkan have high concentration (49.87%) of population while north Konkan tahsils have medium population concentration (20.23%) in 1981. Thane, Kalyan, Bhivandi, Ulhasnagar are the predominant tahsils in Konkan, which constitute more than 28 per cent of the total population of the Konkan region. Thane ranks first with 9.19 per cent
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population to the total population of Konkan, while Kalyan, Bhivandi and Ulhasnagar are next three tahsils with 6.90, 6.50 and 5.70 per cent population respectively to the total population of Konkan. Fig. No. 4.1. All these four tahsils are in Thane district which is a part of central Konkan and which is near to Bombay. The lowest per cent of population is in Poladpur tahsil (0.7%), while Murud (0.8%), Shriwardhan (0.9%) and Mokhada (0.9%) are other three tahsils of low population percentage. In the distribution male female variation is also remarkable which is shown in the Fig. No. 4.2 and 4.3.

1.3.0 POPULATION ZONES OF KONKAN:

The study of distribution of population percentage in various tahsils of Konkan reveals that this distribution coincides with the geographical or natural regions of konkan. Therefore, hereafter we can consider the natural divisions of Konkan as population zones of the Konkan. They are - (i) south population zone, (ii) Central population zone, (iii) north population zone.

1.3.1 ZONEWISE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION - 1981:

1.3.2 i) SOUTH ZONE:

South zone comprises 15 tahsils of Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri district of Konkan. This has 42.76 per cent area of the total area of Konkan and 29.9 per cent
FIG. 4.2
THE KONKAN REGION
MALE POPULATION – 1981

% 

- BELOW 45
- 45.1 TO 49
- 49.1 TO 53
- 53.1 AND ABOVE

N

Gujarat State
Nasik District
Mumbai District

Satara District
Kolhapur District
Goa
Mysore State

20 10 0 20 Kms.
FIG. 4.3

THE KONKAN REGION
FEMALE POPULATION-1981

% 

- BELOW 45
- 45.1 TO 49
- 49.1 TO 53
- 53.1 AND ABOVE

N

20 10 0 20 Km.
population of the total population of Konkan. Fig. No. 4.4. The concentration of population in the zone is low. The highest percentage of population in the zone is in Chiplun tahsil (3.08%). Ratnagiri (3.03%), Sangmeshwar (2.75%) and Rajapur (2.43%) are the next three tahsils with considerable population percentage to the total population of the Konkan. The significant thing is that all these four tahsils are included in Ratnagiri district. The lowest percentage of population is in Mandangad tahsil (0.89%).

The statistics from the table shows that in south population zone the more concentration of population is in Ratnagiri district than Sindhudurg district.

1.3.3 ii) CENTRAL ZONE:

This zone consists of 18 tahsils (Raigad district (14) and Thane district (4)). The zone has 30.91 per cent area to the total area of Konkan and it corresponds the 49.87 per cent population to the total population of Konkan. This shows that there is higher concentration of population in the zone. The highest percentage of population is in Thane tahsil (9.19%). Kalyan (6.90%), Bhivandi (6.5%) and Ulhasnagar (5.7%) are other three tahsils of higher percentage of population. All the four tahsils are included in Thane district and they are very near to Bombay. In the zone lowest percentage is in Sudhagad tahsil (0.66 per cent) followed
FIG 4.4

THE KONKAN REGION
ZONE WISE AREA AND POPULATION – 1981

% OF AREA

% OF POPULATION

% OF AREA AND POPULATION

SOUTH ZONE
CENTRAL ZONE
NORTH ZONE

50

40

30

20

10

0
by Murud (0.8 per cent) and Shriwardhan (0.9 per cent).

1.3.4 iii) NORTH ZONE :

This population zone consists of 10 tahsils of Thane district of Konkan. The zone has 27.23 per cent area of the total area of Konkan while 20.23 per cent population to the total population of Konkan is there. In the zone population concentration is low in comparison with the Central zone; and it is slightly higher than that of south zone. The Bassein tahsil which is near to Bombay (4.1 per cent) has the highest percentage of population in the zone. Palghar (3.79%) and Dahanu (3.19%) are the other important tahsils in population distribution. All the three tahsils have Bombay-Delhi railway road. Mokhada has the lowest percentage of population (0.9%) followed by Talasari tahsil (1.00%). Mokhada and Talasari are extreme north and border tahsils of Konkan.

1.3.5 According to area share and population share, it is revealed that, the proportion of the population is not uniform within the Konkan region. The south population zone has relatively low concentration of population, central population zone has high concentration of population while northpopulation zone has medium concentration of the population in 1981. Generally the population density increases from south to north i.e. near Bombay.
1.4.0 RURAL – URBAN DIFFERENTIAL :

An understanding of the dynamics of population distribution will be neither complete nor clear without making a reference to the differential in the distribution of its two vital components i.e. rural and urban (Fig. No. 4.5). A bulk of the Konkan population has rural residence. The statistics reveal that about 73.13 per cent of the total population of Konkan stays in rural areas. Thus 12.45 per cent of the total rural population of the state belonged to Konkan, in urban areas only 8.49 per cent of the population was recorded as Konkan urban population.

1.4.1 The relatively high concentration of Konkan people in rural areas is attributed to following reasons—

i) Agriculture has for long been the traditional occupation of Konkan people. That is why their overwhelming proportion has a rural residence.

ii) Except central Konkan other regions of Konkan have no progress in industrialisation. Therefore, the speed of urbanisation is slow in the rest of Konkan. However, it is interesting to note that the growth of urbanisation in Central Konkan, particularly in Thane, Kalyan, Bhivandi and Ulhasnagar is faster. Therefore, more urban population is in central Konkan.
FIG. 4-5  
THE KONKAN REGION  
RURAL POPULATION—1981
1.5.0 POPULATION DENSITY:

Population density is one of the key factors used to determine population distribution, population growth and migration and in-migration. Therefore, the study of distribution of population is incomplete without taking the cognisance of its density. In fact the concept of density of population provides a quantitative measure of a degree of population concentration in an area.\(^5\) A study of distribution of population should, therefore, be supplemented by the discussion on pattern of population density. It is a measure of degree of population concentration and is generally expressed in terms of number of persons per unit of area for any given point of time. If the growth of population is uniform the density of all constituent units will increase in the same proportion from one time point to another, but a differential pattern of population growth of various constituent units will lead to variations in population densities and would be indicative of the emerging pattern of population redistribution.\(^6\)

In the preceding paragraphs a general distribution of population and its concentration patterns at a point of time i.e. 1981 is expressed.

1.5.1 Regional average density of the Konkan region was 234 persons per sq. km in 1981. Out of 42 tahsils the
### TABLE NO. 4.2

**ZONEWISE GENERAL POPULATION DENSITY - 1981**

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</tbody>
</table>

14 tahsils have more than average density of the region. Fig. No. 4.6. Thane, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar tahsils have more than 1000 persons per sq.kms. The most predominant density among all tahsils is in Thane tahsil (1794 per sq.km.) followed by Kalyan (1433) and Ulhasnagar (1259). Bhivandi (549) and Bassein (517) are the other tahsils with high density of population. They are also located near Bombay industrial belt. The lowest density in the Konkan is 94 persons per sq.km. in Mokhada tahsil, Sudhagad tahsil ranks last but one in ranking of density numbers. As we go north or south from Bombay the density decreases. Near Bombay the density is more. The high concentration of population in central area i.e. near Bombay is due to -

1.5.2 1 URBANISATION :

Urbanisation has been important cause for increasing the density of the population upto 1981. The urban population of central zone is increased by 466.4 per cent during the last 20 years span (1961-81). The seven urban centres are located in the central part of Konkan of which four urban centres are complex in nature. The Thane city, Ulhasnagar, Kalyan and Bhivandi are the fast growing urban centres located in this zone. According to 1981 census there are 26 towns which are having more than one lakh population in Maharashtra. Four out of them are in Konkan and all these four towns are located in Thane.
district of central zone. In 1981, Thane has 3,09,897 total population, Ulhasnagar has 2,73,668 population, Bhivandi has 1,15,298 population and Kalyan has 1,36,052 population.

1.5.3 2 INDUSTRIALISATION :

This is another important factor which is responsible for the high population density. Thane, Ulhasnagar, Bhivandi are well-known for a variety of industries. Particularly, after 1970 industrial expansion started in peripheral region of Bombay. Thane district with its industrial area has registered a significant increase of 33.06 per cent in the period of 1971-81. Mainly in this region 13 M.I.D.C. industrial settlements started at Thane, Thanewadi, Pari, Kalambe, Mirya, Dombivali, Tarapur, Murbad, Kalyan, Ambarnath, Atirikta, Dombivali, Tarapur, Murbad, Kalyan, Ambarnath, Atirikta, Badalapur, Bhivandi. In these M.I.D.C. centres Textile, Chemical, Petro-chemicals, Refineries, Rubber and Plastic industries, Electric instrument manufacturing industries, artificial thread making industries and match-box industries, medicine production increased rapidly in this region within the 20 year's span (1961-81).

1.5.4 3 This zone has tribal population. They are known as Warli, Katkari, Konkana, Thor etc. Government implemented many new schemes for development of the tribal zone. This also resulted in the high population density in
1.5.5. 4 WELL DEVELOPED TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

This zone has well developed transport and communication with Bombay and with neighbouring states and inside the state. Therefore, trade centres are developed in the zone which resulted in the high density of population.

All above factors are responsible for the higher density of urban areas of Konkan than that of its rural counterpart. Rural population density is 190 persons per sq.km. while urban population density is 3256 persons per sq. km. (Fig. NO. 4.7 and 4.8)

1.6.0 SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION (1981):

We have discussed population growth analysis upto 1981 on the basis of tahsil as a unit. Still the base is inadequate to present a comprehensive picture of spatial distribution. Therefore, we proceed to analyse the population density of 1981 only. The current spatial distribution is, therefore, worth considering. For analysing the density, we have divided the Konkan region (Tahsils) according to density grades.

The total average density of the population is 234 persons per sq.km. There is no uniformity in the distribution of population density in all areas. It varies
FIG. 4-7

THE KONKAN REGION
POPULATION DENSITY OF RURAL AREA-1981

GUJRAT STATE

DENSITY PER Sq.Km.

- BELOW 100
- 101 TO 150
- 151 TO 200
- 201 TO 250
- 251 TO 300
- 301 AND ABOVE

N

20 10 0 20 Km.
FIG. 4-8
THE KONKAN REGION
POPULATION DENSITY OF URBAN AREA-1981

DENSITY PER Sq.Km.

- NON URBAN AREA
- BELOW 1000
- 1001 TO 1500
- 1501 TO 2000
- 2001 TO 2500
- 2501 TO 3000
- 3001 AND ABOVE

GUJRAT STATE
WASIK DISTRICT
KUNLI DISTRICT
KOLHAPUR DISTRICT
SAHILL DIST.
GOA
from tahsil to tahsil. We have classified the Konkan region excluding Bombay into different population density categories. It depends on tahsil level data (Table No. 4.3)

TABLE NO. 4.3

KONKAN POPULATION DENSITY DISTRIBUTION (1981)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Range of density persons per sq.km.</th>
<th>Number of tahsil</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>Below 100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>101 - 150</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>151 - 200</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Slightly high</td>
<td>201 - 250</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>251 - 300</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Very high</td>
<td>301 and above</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional Average 234 42 100


1.6.1 1 VERY LOW POPULATION DENSITY :
(Area below 100 persons per sq.km.)

The region under study has only one tahsil (Mokhada) falling in this category. This category has the
range of the population density from 0 to 100 persons per
sq.km. (Fig. No. 4.1). Only Mokhada tahsil (94 persons per
sq. km.) of Thane district is included in this category.
Tahsil is located at the North-eastern corner of the study
region. Towards eastern border of this tahsil Nasik
district, towards north Dadara-Nagar Haveli Union
territory region is located. The very low population
density in this region is because of-

i) TOPOGRAPHY :

This tahsil is covered by Jawhar-Mokhada
plateau at heights of 250 to 400 m. This plateau is a
rocky one, dyke intrusions and structural disturbances,
resulting in north-south fault planes. These fault planes
have introduced considerable variety in the topography of
the region. This physiography is not suitable for
agriculture also.

ii) REGIONAL ISOLATION :

This region be-comes isolated from
neighbouring tahsils due to high altitude. There is no
easy communication with other parts of the state. Due to
altitude it remains aloof from Igatpuri railway line in
the eastern side. All this interior part of Thane district
and adjoining upland western talukas of Nasik district and
adjoining upland western talukas of Nasik district has
literally undeveloped transport network.

iii) TRIBAL POPULATION :

The settlement in these areas are mostly in scattered hamlets. This population is mostly tribal and eking out a meagre and precarious income from the forests and shifting cultivation.

iv) This whole tahsil lacks any industrial development and therefore, no urban centre, exists.

1.6.2 2 RELATIVELY LOW POPULATION DENSITY AREA :

(100 to 150 persons per sq.km.)

The region under study has 12 tahsils falling in this category. This category ranges from 100 to 150 persons per sq.km. (Fig. No. 4.3). Out of the total tahsils, 28.6 per cent tahsils of the study region fall in this category. Jawhar, Wada, Shahapur, Murbad tahsils of Thane district; Shudhagad and Poladpur tahsils of Raigad district; Sangmeshwar, Lanja, Rajapur tahsils of Ratnagiri district, and Deogad and Sawantwadi tahsils of Sindhudurg district are included in this low population density area. Topography of this region is rugged and the region is lagging behind in transportation. These tahsils have low population density due to following reasons:

1.6.3 i) Hilly topography affects the distribution of
population density. The north Konkan part i.e. Jawhar, Wada, Shapur, Murbad talukas, is made up of the large amphitheatre-like basin formed by the more hilly Vaitarna basin. The Sahyadris have relatively receded away from the coast due to the swift headward erosion of the north Konkan streams. The extensive plateau called Jawhar-Mokhada plateau, which has an altitude upto 1200 mtrs. Borghat, Talghat, Nanghat etc. are prominent ghats and they are the only way for communication towards eastern side.

1.6.4 In south Konkan, Amba, Phonda, and Amboli ghats are prominent. The Sahyadri forms a continuous buttress to the east separating the area from the Desh districts. The ghats rising to elevations of 100 meters or more descend rapidly, over a distance of 5 to 10 kms. to heights of 300 meters. Mainly in the tahsils like Mandangad, Sangmeshwar, Lanja, Rajapur, Deogad, Sawantwadi land is badly broken by residual hills and spurs shooting off westward from the main ridge. In fact, the whole region of this density zone is hilly in aspect with very little flat ground, and lowlying plains. Along with hills there is strong lateritic cap. All this result into poor land and hence there is low density of population.

ii) Lack of transportation facilities is also responsible for the low density of the population. In this
density zone only some tahsils places have transport communication like Murbad, Sudhagad, Poladpur, Deogad tahsils and interior part lag behind in transportation.

iii) Lack of industrialisation and low urbanisation:

This density region has only four municipal towns and all these towns are tahsil places. Other whole region is rural one having no industrialisation.

iv) Percentage of agricultural land:

Mountainous topography has adverse effect on agriculture, and on irrigation. Therefore, for employment purpose people from this area have more migrations, towards industrial belt like Bombay to Poona or Bombay to Thane. These causes do not allow to increase the population density. Mainly Sawantwadi, Deogad, Poladpur, Sudhagad, Shahapur, Jawhar tahsils have considerable number of out-migrations.

1.6.5 3 RELATIVELY MEDIUM POPULATION DENSITY AREA:

(151 to 200 persons per sq.km.)

The region under study has in all 12 tahsils falling in this category. This category ranges from 150 to 200 persons per sq.km. There are 28.6 per cent tahsils of the district falling in this category. 5 tahsils of Raigad district, 4 tahsils of Ratnagiri district and 3 tahsils of Sindhudurg
district incluđe in this category. In the Thane district there is not a single tahsil of this category.

1.6.6 Generally, these tahsils are in small patches in the north-east tahsil of Raigad and south part of Raigad district, north Ratnagiri and central part of Sindhudurg district falling in this category (Fig. No. 4.2). These tahsils have better communication by road lines. Small river basins are also there. Though the mountainous ranges are there, they have not much height. Kundlika, Savitri, Vashisti, Shastri, Karli river basins are the important geographical locations in this category.

1.6.7 The following factors are responsible for medium population density in the study region -

i) RIVER BASINS:

In these tahsils small rivers flow. Optimum agricultural practices are practised, therefore, somewhat better economic status can be maintained in this region which resulted in the stability of the population.

ii) Kankavli, Malvan, Kudal of Sindhudurg district, Dapoli, Chiplun, Khed of RATnagiri district and Mahad, Managaon, Roha of Raigad district are progressive in garden crops like Coconut, Bettle-nut, Banana, Mango, Jack fruit etc. This gives earning source to the local people
and helps for improving economical status of the population.

iii) The tahsils have provided better irrigation facilities for the agriculture. Some parts of Kudal, Malvan, Mangaon, Roha, Mahad and Dapoli have double crop pattern due to river basins.

iv) Optimum communication facilities play role in the medium population density of this region. Major tahsils of this region are connected with Bombay, Thane, by Bombay-Goa National Highway.

v) Some tahsils like Karjat, Mahad, Khed, Kudal and Kankavali are progressing with industrial estates. These industries are still in the initial stage, but they provide employment opportunities to the local people as well as attract outsiders.

1.6.8 4 SLIGHTLY HIGH POPULATION DENSITY AREA:

The region understudy has 7 tahsils falling in this category. This category ranges from 201 to 250 persons per sq.km. There is 16.6 per cent area coming under this category. 3 tahsils of Thane district, 3 tahsils of Raigad district, 1 tahsil from Ratnagiri district come under this category.

Generally these tahsils show three patches over
the map. One patch is in North-West Thane district (Talasari, Dahanu, Palaghar tahsil). Second patch is in north Raigad district (Khalapur, Pen, Murud tahsil). Third patch is of only one tahsil and this patch occupies the district place i.e. Ratnagiri tahsil. This patch is at the coastal area of Ratnagiri district. Probably all these tahsils are having viver basins as well as good transportation facilities.

1.6.9 These tahsils have slightly high population density due to following reasons:

i) PROXIMITY OF URBAN CENTRES:

This factor is also important for high population density. The tahsils located near Greater Bombay, Thane, Ulhasnagar (urban and industrial places) have comparatively high density of population. The workers who are unable to pay greater house rent in urban area, live away from the urban centres. Hence it results into high population density of the peripheral tahsils. For example the peripheral tahsils of Bombay and Thane like Khalapur, Pen etc.

ii) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY:

The tahsils like Palaghar, Dahanu, Talasari, Murud, Pen have agricultural better prosperity than other regions. All these tahsils have somewhat plane topography
than other tahsils. This results in the stability of population. All these tahsils are having higher percentage of population dependent upon agriculture.

iii) TRADE AND OTHER WORK :

Some tahsils in this category like Khalapur, Pen, Ratnagiri, Murud are developing into trade centres. These tahsils are Coastal tahsils and, therefore, higher number of population of these tahsils are engaged in trade as well as in other occupations like fishing, horticulture, grazing and producing other than manufacturing. These occupations are also given out high density of population.

vi) TRANSPORT :

Some of the tahsils of this density zone are directly connected by road with Greater Bombay, which is a huge industrial centre of the country. Some tahsils like Ratnagiri, Murud are connected by ocean routes to Bombay. Good communication ways are important for increasing population density.

v) COTTAGE INDUSTRY :

Tahsils like Ratnagiri, Murud, Pen, Dahanu have newly created small industrial centres. Mainly tahsils like Khalapur, Dahanu and Talasari are tribal tahsils, which are having new developmental policies by Government.
These new policies help for stabilizing the population.\textsuperscript{14}

1.7.0 5 HIGH DENSITY OF POPULATION :

(Above 251 to 300 persons per sq.km.)

This region under study has only two tahsils falling in this category. It has 251 to 300 persons per sq. km. There were 4.8 per cent tahsils of the study region falling in this category. Out of these two tahsils, Raigad and Sindhudurg districts have one tahsil each.

Generally, these two tahsils are far away from each other. Shrivardhan tahsil is the southern end of Raigad district whereas Vengurla is at the southern end of Sindhudurg district. Both tahsils are coastal tahsils (Fig. No. 4.3). These tahsils have high density of population due to -

i) Good transport by roadways and ocean ways. Both are sea ports of Konkan.

ii) Horticulture - Vengurla is famous for fruit-gardening. Mongo, Pineapple, Cashunut, coconut, Jack-fruit production is more in Vengurla and Shrivardhan tahsil. Agriculture is also main occupation in Shrivardhan and Vengurla tahsils.

iii) Fishing and trade transport occupation also supported many people in these two tahsils.
iv) Cottage industries like soap, katha, roap making is prosperous in these tahsils.

1.7.1 6 VERY HIGH POPULATION DENSITY AREA (Above 300 persons per sq.km.)

The region under study has 8 tahsils falling in this category. It has more than 300 persons per sq.km. There are 19 per cent tahsils of the study region falling in this category. Five tahsils of Thane district and three tahsils of Raigad district fall in this category.

1.7.2 These tahsils have a patch over the Fig. No.4.3 All these tahsils surround Bombay. Though the category has more than 300 persons per sq.km. in fact only three tahsils of Raigad tahsil are inbetween three hundred to four hundred persons per sq.km. Three tahsils have more than 1200 persons per sq.km. These tahsils have very high density of the population due to-

i) High advancement in industrialisation.

ii) More urbanisation.

iii) Advanced network of road, rail transportation.

iv) Nearness of India's one of the greatest industrial urban centres and capital of state (i.e. Bombay).

From the above discussion this can be concluded
i) Only 19 per cent tahsils of the study region fall in the very high population density category i.e. more than 300 persons per sq.km. whereas 59.6 per cent tahsils of the study region fall in below average population density i.e. below 200 persons per sq.km.

ii) For higher density in the region industrialisation and transport network play very important role than any other factor.

1.8.0 CONCLUSIONS :

This chapter deals with the spatial patterns of population distribution. One important indication emerges from the analysis that-

i) It is seen that due to the various industries, growth centres of population have emerged, Ulhasnagar, Bhivandi, Kalyan, Thana, Bassein, Panvel, Uran etc. are some of the examples. It is not proper to attribute the distribution trend to the entire region of which they are the parts.

ii) In comparison to the state average of population density 204 persons per sq.km. Konkan has 234 persons per sq.km. population density. This is attributable to high industrialisation and good transport network and high rate of urbanisation near Bombay, particularly in Thane district.
iii) of the total population of the Konkan about 73.13 per cent has rural residence and a large number of them are engaged in agricultural labour or household industry, both of which are rural oriented. The higher sex ratio is there.

iv) spatially speaking as one moves from the centre (from Bombay) to north and south, the per cent distribution of population to the total population goes on decreasing.

v) The aras having backward agricultural economy, high proportion of tribal population, backward in transport facilities and regions of uneven topography are with low proportion of population concentration. By contrast the areas with high degree of commercialisation and high proportion of area under cash crops exhibit high proportion of population.

1.8.1 Another striking feature that comes to the forefront is about disparity between urban and rural density of this region as said earlier. The urban density is found in locational concentrations in different parts of the study region. However, the rural density of population proves as a true indicator providing a good corollary for the analysis.

South zone and extreme north has male selective
migrations towards Bombay and hence the majority tahsils of south zone have low density in 1981. In Konkan region 2.4 per cent tahsils are in very low population density, 28.6 per cent tahsils are in low per cent category of population density. The same percentage is in medium population density zone. Only two per cent tahsils are in high category whereas 8 per cent tahsils are in very high density of population.
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