CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

“The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man.” (Thomas Malthus, 1798). Population is the major element because population play vital role in the development of region. The growth of population, its structure and composition affect on social and economic conditions. Population is one of the resources. Unplanned population growth within region is responsible for shortage of food, shelter, water, transport, education, health services and other socio-economic amenities resulting as imbalance in sex ratio, marital status, fertility, mortality, age structure, migration and occupation structure. Many geographical studies have described and compared the size, structure, characteristics, distribution and changes of population through time. The population structure and population characteristics include marital status, literacy, educational status and labourers force, etc. These may change through social mobility (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2003). This population studies are concerned with population variables, its changes and socio-economic, political, biological, genetic and geographical factors of the region. The geographer’s interest to find out relationship between population distribution and geographical space and physicosocial condition. The new field of empirical research in population studies first carried out by John Grant (1662) who is considered as father of population studies. He has written on “Natural and political observation in 1662.

Edmund Halley (1963) has prepared empirical life table based on data regarding birth and death. Johann Peter S. (1765) has studied the factors influencing fertility age, marriage disruption by death, prolonged nursing of infants and effect of various diseases. The term ‘Demography’ was used by Achille Guillard in 1955. This includes the study of population fertility, mortality, mobility and territorial movements of demography. Basu (1962) has examined the relationship between different methods of family planning in rural area. Shastry (1963) has analysed the family planning and role of social workers, attitudes of males and females towards family planning. Raman (1964) has discussed the fertility in India. Chandrasekaran (1964) has analyzed the impact of national policy on fertility trends in India. He has


1.2 Choice of Region

The study region has been selected for present study due to various reasons. Firstly, region has diversified relief and amount of rainfall and soil types. Secondly dry region lies in east, irrigated region in north and tribal dominant population dominant in west in study region. Thirdly north part has sugarcane cultivation in study region and fourthly researcher belongs to this study region hence familiar with study area.

1.3 Study Region

Ahmednagar district is situated partly in upper Godavari basin and partly in Bhima basin occupying in central west part in Maharashtra state. It extends from 18° 10' to 20° 00' north latitudes and 73° 30' to 75° 37' east longitudes (Fig.-1.1). It is flanked by Igatpuri, Sinnar and Yeola talukas in Nashik district in north, Vajapur, Gangapur and Paithan talukas of Aurangabad district and Georai, Beed and Ashti talukas of Beed district in east, Bhum and Paranda talukas in Osmanabad district and Karmala takuka in Solapur district in south, Junnar, Shirur, Daund and Indapur talukas of Pune district and Murbad, Sahapur talukas of Thane district in west.
Fig.-1.1 : Location of Study Area
The region with irregular shape and has 200 kilometers a length and width of 210 kilometers on 17,048 square kilometers area and having population of 4040642 persons in 2011 accounting 5.5 percent area of Maharashtra state. In study region density was 237 persons per sq. kilometer. The sex ratio was 908 females per thousand males, literacy was 78.3 percent accounting urban literacy (84.7 percent) and rural literacy (72.9 percent). The growth of population from 1991 to 2001 was 19.80 percent. The study region has 46.48 percent cultivators, 22.28 percent agricultural labours and remaining 31.24 percent workers engaged other than agriculture sector (Fig.-1.1). Phytiographically, study region is divided into three regions, namely, Sahyadri hill ranges, namely, Kalsubai, Adula, Baleshwar and Harishchandragad, Plateau and plains drained by Godavari and Bhima rivers. Average rainfall receives 575.8 mm. The mean daily maximum temperature is 39° centigrades and means daily minimum temperature is 11.7° centigrades. The deep black soil, medium black soil, gray soil and red soil appear in study region. 71.10 percent area is found under cultivation and irrigation accounts 32.40 percent. The major crops, namely, jowar, wheat, bajra, maize, sugarcane, cotton, pulses and oilseeds are cultivated in study region.

1.4 Objectives

The undertaken study has attempted to assess and evaluate the population characteristics of Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra state by following sub-objectives

i) Examining the physical background of Ahmednagar district.
ii) To compute the density, growth and distribution pattern of population.
iii) Assessing the literacy, occupation structure, composition of age and sex ratio, and
iv) Assessing marital status and religion composition and urbanization.

1.5 Database and Methodology

The present study is based on primary and secondary data obtained from government and non-government sources. This study is carried out at taluka level for the period for 1981 to 2001, Socio-economic Abstract of Ahmednagar District, Public Work Department, Health Department, Primary Health Centre, Zilha Parishad Ahmednagar and Agricultural Department. The collected data were tabulated and then applied to represent in the form of graphs, pie charts, maps and diagrams. The processed data were used for mapping and computing population density, population
growth, population concentration literacy and male female differential index. Concentration of urban population was shown by Lorenz Curve by using Gini’s method. Besides this, choropleath method was applied for mapping. Bar diagrams and line graphs have drawn for showing temporal trends and variations of population change.

1.6 Arrangement of Text

The chapter first deals with conceptual framework which includes the introduction, study region, literatures review, objectives, database and methodology and limitation. The chapter second has described the physical and cultural background of study region and has studied location, physiography, drainage, soil types, climate, natural vegetation, transport, agriculture, and socio-economic condition. Chapter third has studied population density, distribution and growth both in rural and urban area. Moreover the changes in density of population and growth rate have examined. The natural growth rate of population during twenty years for males, females, rural and urban areas have studied. Chapter fourth has analyzed the spatio-temporal changes in sex ratio, age group, rural-urban change, age composition and migration pattern. Chapter fifth has assured the male-female literacy, rural-urban literacy, literacy of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and occupational structure and urbanization with distribution urban population, literacy sex ratio and occupational structure of urban population. Chapter sixth is devoted for the marital status and composition of religions. The seventh chapter has devoted to summary, findings and suggestions.

1.7 Limitations of Study

This study is focussed on changes of population characteristics in Ahmednagar district. Due to lack of proper data is hindrance in present study. The data on migration was available at district level and age composition was not available at taluka level for the purpose of comparison. The marital composition was available at district level. Some urban places existed new talukas in 1991 and in 2001, hence data of new taluka was not readily available during study period. Due to reframe and increased of taluka Rahata after 2000. The present study, aspects of spatio-temporal changes has been studied for thirteen taluka only and shown these changes in maps only thirteen talukas for study region.