

CHAPTER I

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CHAPTER I

APPRAISAL OF THE PROBLEM

1.0 INTRODUCTION :

The geography of population is a recent sprout from the vulnerable trunk of science of geography. Among the major contributors to the field, Glenn T. Trewartha undisputedly gains the most important place for having initiated the development of this systematic branch of geography. According to him the population was the point of reference from which all other elements are observed. While defining population ^{5/}Geography, Trewartha stressed that its essence lay in the understanding of regional differences in the earth's covering of people.¹ According to Demko, population geography has to be formulated in the context of nature of geography as a distinct discipline and population as an element of geography in general so is of population geography in particular.² Keeping in view the fact that population provides the focal point in geography and man is not only the utilizer of physical earth but also the creator of cultural earth, Trewartha was justified in placing man at the centre of geographic thinking. Population geography has been accepted as a distinct branch of geography since then.

John I. Clarke

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(1965)

1.2 John I. Clarke says ~~(1965)~~ that population geography is concerned with demonstrating how spatial variations in distribution, composition, migration and growth are related to the spatial variations in the nature of places.³ Thus Clarke lays emphasis upon spatial aspect of population and distinguishes population geography from demography.

1.3 Recently Wilbur Zelinsky, defines population geography as the science that deals with the ways in which the geographic character of places is formed by and in turn reacts upon, a set of population phenomena that vary within it through both space and time as they follow their own behavioural laws, interacting with each other and with numerous non-demographic phenomena.⁴ He says population geographer studies population in the context of space relationship and aggregate nature of places.

1.4 Madame Beaujeu-Garnier from France observes that population geography is concerned with describing the demographic facts in their present environmental context, studying also causes, their original characteristics and possible consequences. She also lists three levels-

(i) The distribution of people over the globe; (ii) the evolution of human societies, and (iii) the degree of success that they have achieved.⁵ According to Edward Ackerman the study of population by geographers should,

therefore, lead to a better understanding of the process creating areal distributions as expressed in the concepts inherent in spatial interaction.⁶ However, the Soviet viewpoint of population geography does not correspond to the concept of population geography as developed in the West. Soviet geographers say that the productive aspect of population is the most important as regards the distribution of population and therefore, in Soviet Union population is regarded as a part of economic geography.⁷

population

2.0 **POPULATION GEOGRAPHY AND OTHER DISCIPLINES :**

2.1 It is true that population studies do not belong exclusively to the population geographer. Scholars in diverse disciplines of knowledge like Demography, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, History as well as Geography have been making their contributions to the analysis of population. Nevertheless, the population geographer does perform a distinctive function in any study of population. That is to say, demographer is interested in establishing population theories based upon quantitative observations,⁸ a sociologist studies the social groups in their institutional organisations,⁹ as anthropologist's main concern lies in three major problems of man, namely evolution of man, ontogenetic development of man and classification of human races; an economist examines the economic implications of any demographic

pattern and a historian traces the population trends through time, whereas the main goal of population geographer is to understand the spatial aspects of population in the context of aggregate nature of places.¹⁰ Thus the emphasis of a geographer is on spatial perspective and this is the most distinguishing feature of geography, which sets it apart from other subjects dealing with population phenomena.

3.0 APPROACHES OF THE POPULATION GEOGRAPHY :

3.1 1953 is the remarkable year in which the study of population marked a significant divide with regard to the approach to the study of population in geography which according to Trewartha, facilitates the understanding of regional differences in the character of areas. Trewartha asserted that while in understanding of places the desirable goal may be geographic research and instruction, the goal normally is best attained by the topical approach, which is suitable for Western geographers. Others are following systems approach. Systems approach offers a more satisfactory explanation in situation where we are concerned with complex multivariate relationships. In the systems approach the focus is upon the understanding of the structure and functioning of a system as a whole rather than on its individual constituent parts. There are two ways in which the geographers can

make use of systems approach. First to proceed to identify elements, attributes, links, environments and parameters of system. Second?

3.2 However, with the recent behavioural revolution in geography, an increasing emphasis has been put on looking beyond the simple spatial patterns of various attributes of population. There has been a growing tendency to put more emphasis on the behavioural aspect of human being and the ways their behaviour influences the decision making process particularly while analysing such attributes like migration, births etc. The detailed study of approaches in population geography reveals that systematic, behavioural and systems approaches in population geography are not competitive but complementary to each other. While the systematic approach facilitated by the use of traditional tools and techniques helps in unfolding the spatial patterns of various attributes of population, the behavioural and systems view point offer new modes of explanation for the meanings lying behind the simple spatial patterns.

4.0 CONTENT OF POPULATION GEOGRAPHY :

4.1 Since population geography is a recently developed branch of geography, a divergence of opinion on the subject matter and full content of the field of population geography is understandable. However, the core

of population geography 'man' is well established and in the light of this fact one can say that the subject matter of this branch of geography must be related to different aspects of man. According to Trewartha, the subject matter of population geography is confined to -

(a) geography of population in the past, (b) population numbers including distribution, density, migration, growth etc. and (c) qualities of population and their regional pattern of distribution (including physical as well as socio-economic qualities).

4.2 Zelinsky said that the list of human characteristics to be studied by a population geographer may be equated with those appearing in the census enumeration schedules. He classified the study matter into three divisions (a) essentially biological, (b) economic, social and cultural in causation, and (c) those that constitute the elements of dynamics. According to Zelinsky the field of population geography cannot be content with the systematic study of various attributes of population in isolation but the understanding of associations among various demographic phenomena themselves and between demographic phenomena and non-demographic phenomena is also equally important.

4.3 Clarke listed the subject matter of population geography in three groups - (a) absolute ^u numbers, (b) Physical, social and economic characteristics and

(c) population dynamics. Accordingly age, sex, race, intelligence etc. were in the physical category, marital status, family, household, residence, literacy, education, language, religion, nationality, ethnic groups etc. in the social category, industry, occupation, income etc. in the economic category and fertility, mortality, migration, change etc, have been classified as the population dynamics.

5.0 POPULATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT :

5.1 The population of a region influences its social and economic growth. It is considered that man power is needed for economic development. The more the skills and training is provided to the human labour, the more production can be achieved in economic sectors. Marx has laid stress on need of human beings in production. Adam Smith believes that increasing population helps production and productivity. The growth of population, according to him also helps in the increase in consumption and marketing.

5.2 On the other hand, some other thinkers believe that increase in population will result in increasing economic problems. In developing countries rapid population growth has created many problems. The population growth in these countries is a burden on available resources and leads to deterioration in their

standard of living.

6.0 CHOICE OF THE REGION :

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6.1 The Konkan excluding Bombay is selected for the study from this point of view. The region is bounded by the natural boundaries; to the North Daman-Ganga river, to the East Western Ghats or wall of Sahyadries, to the South ~~the~~ Terekhol river and to the west ~~the~~ Arabian sea, these are *Rptn.* natural boundaries of Konkan region (Fig. NO.1.1). While to the north Gujarat State and Nagar-Haveli Union Territory, to the East Nasik, Pune, Satara and Sangli and Kolhapur districts and to the south Karnataka state and Goa Union Territory. These are the administrative boundaries of the region. This region occupies an area of 29,791 sq.km. Which is about 9.68 percent of the total geographical area of the state. This is coastal land which extends in North-south direction parallel to the sahyadries for *Cap.* about 720 km. in length.¹¹ Its width varies from 80 km. in the north to 40 km. in the south (Location Map). *NO. ?*

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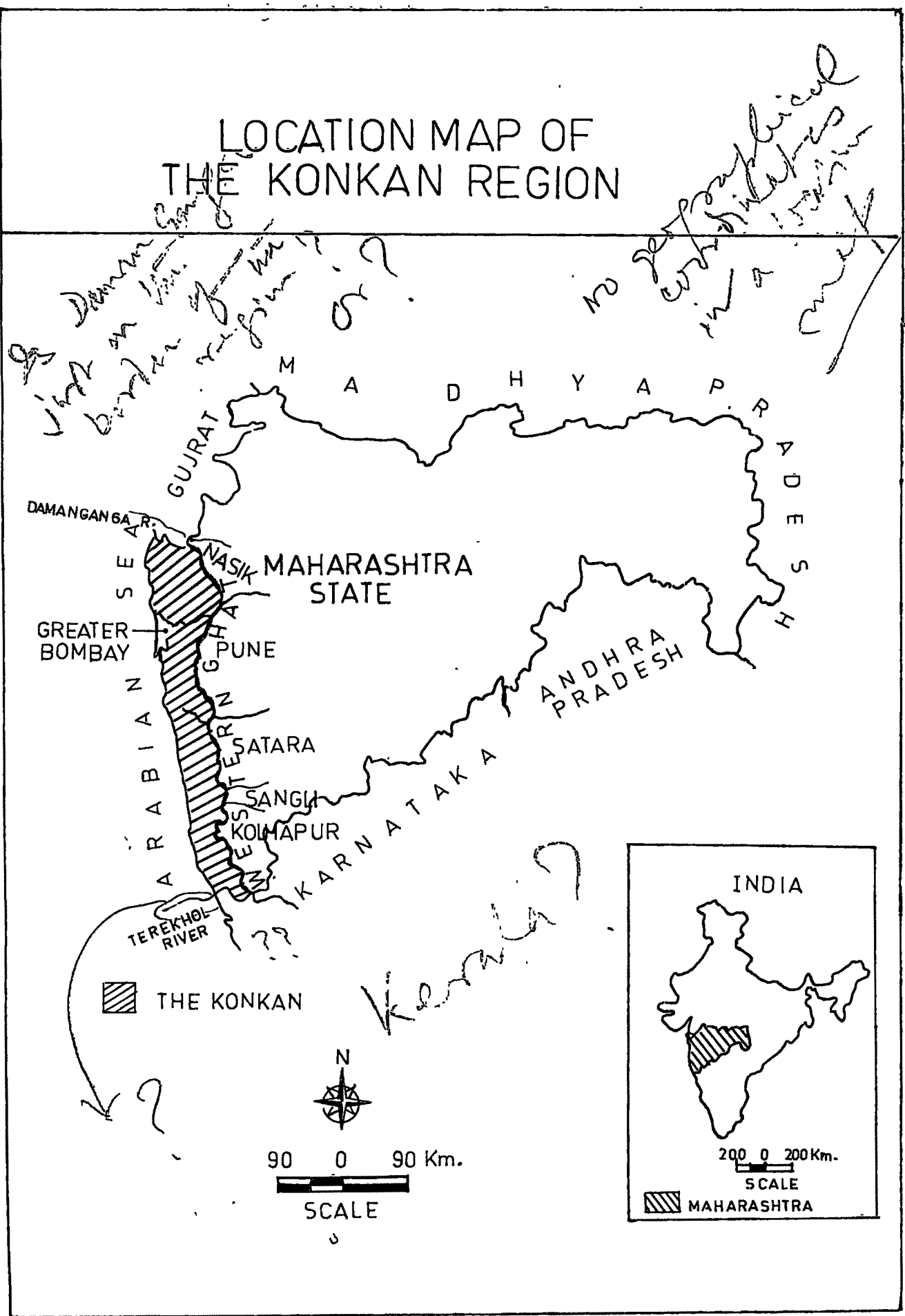
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6.2 Though the Konkan region is connected to the Deccan plateau or eastern parts of the state through the Ghats by linking routes such as Ambavali ghat connecting Khed with Mahabaleshwar, Kumbharli Ghat joining Chiplun and Karad, Amba Ghat between Ratnagiri and Kolhapur, Phonda Ghat between Kankavali and Kolhapur and Amboli ghat between Savantwadi and Kolhapur, it is isolated from the

FIG. 1.1

LOCATION MAP OF THE KONKAN REGION



other parts of Maharashtra due to the wall of Sahyadris. And as it is landlocked internally, the impact of other parts of the state in all respect has not been registered easily and directly in the region.

6.3 For administration purposes this region is sub-divided into four districts viz. Thane, Raigad, Rathnagiri and Sindhudurg ^{comprising} which comprises of 42 talukas (Fig. No. 1.2). As per 1981 census the total population of the region was 69,49,325 which is about 11.07 percent of the state's total population.

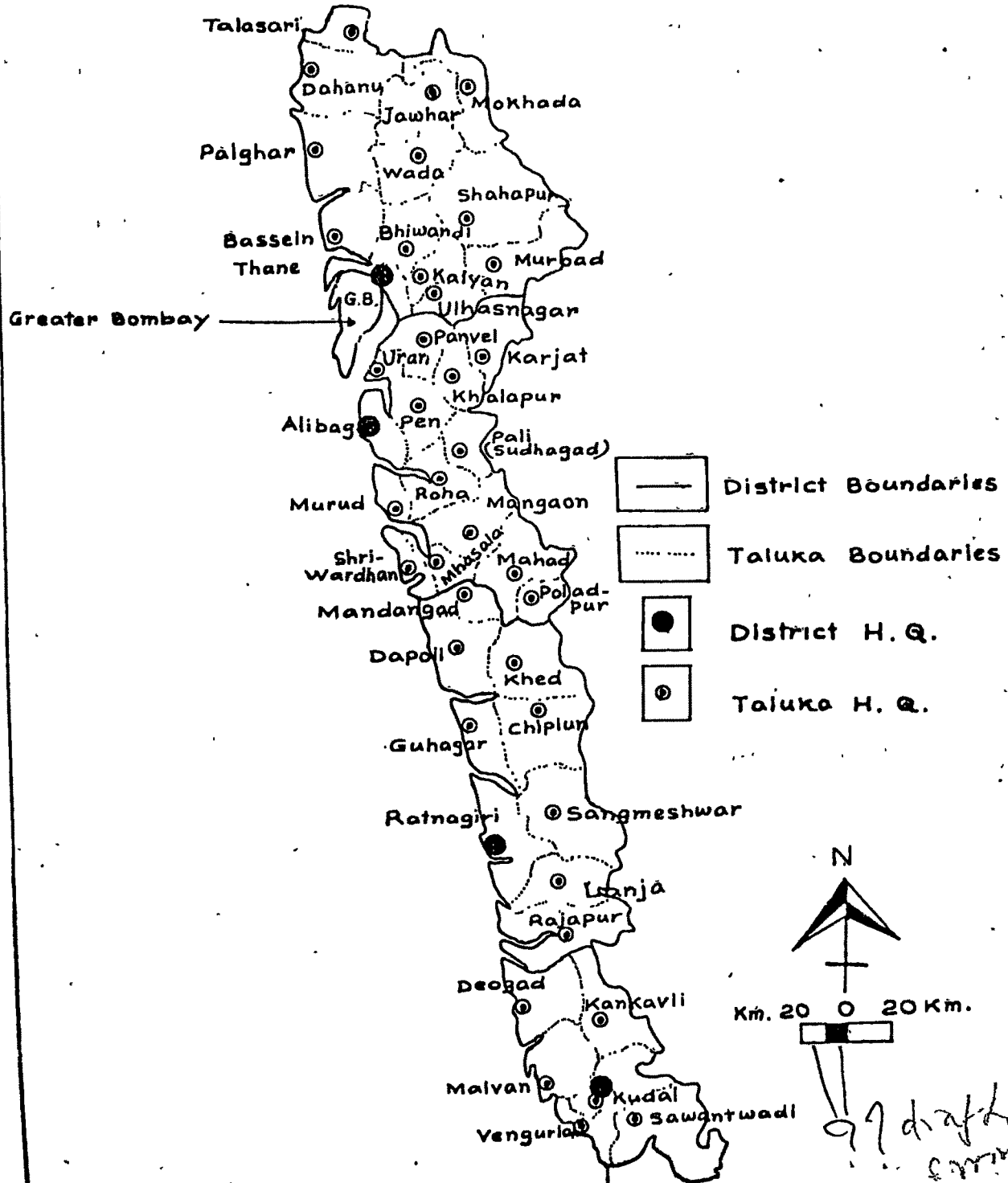
6.4 Many agencies have expressed their views about the development of Konkan and often they have suggested programmes which include various schemes for regional development. Many schemes are already implemented and some are under way too. But still Konkan has to be labelled as a backward region of Maharashtra.

6.5 On the basis of population resource relationship and capacity to support non-agricultural population, Konkan region is classified as a problem region which suffers from the problem of less planned utilization of resources due to restrictive environment, poorly developed transport system and the absence of skilled labour.¹² Therefore, the development programme for the Konkan region should be based on comprehensive understanding of the above mentioned problems as well as the aggregate patterns of

Fig. 1.2

THE KONKAN REGION

KEY MAP



the demographic structure of the population (density and growth rate), resources potentials other than land resources, level of socio-economic development and capacity of resources for diverting rural population towards industrial urban areas.

6.6 The land of Konkan is majestic but poor. This is the Aparant Bhumi, the land of the legendary figure Parshuram with a glorious historical past. In spite of this great heritage, Konkan remained economically underdeveloped for the lack of proper approach in the regional planning. The regional planners have called Konkan as a 'problem region'. After three decades of the implementation of the agricultural innovations including the 'green revolution' still there are many areas where the rural population greatly exceeds the supporting capacity of the land, the main resources of all of them.

The planners have divided Maharashtra into population resource regions- dynamic, prospective and problematic. The problem regions are those where the land resource potential is not adequately utilized to sustain the multiplaying population of them. The supporting capacity of the land is greatly inadequate and hence the standard of living of the Konkan people has been miserably low.

6.7 The human exodus to Bombay and the acquired characteristic of 'money order economy' of Konkan, male selective migrations and further abnormal sex ratio (more number of female than male) are the drawbacks emerging out

of the under utilization of the resources. Since the concept of the regional development planning, the development issues of the problem regions like Konkan are of vital importance and call for a special strategy. The strategy is to be based on the inventory, conservation and utilization of the physical and human resources.

6.8 All these considerations motivated the author to turn his attention to this scenic region and its population geography.

7.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE KONKAN REGION :

7.1 Since the ancient period Konkan region was known for its forest resources, while since the medieval period this region was known for its salt production, fishing and silk weaving. Under the British rule the south and central Konkan remained as backward areas, mainly due to the lack of communications required to connect them with the other enlightened centres of Maharashtra, with a disastrous effect on the Konkan. In place of east-west flow of economic goods and service, the roads of Konkan became aligned towards Bombay. The link in inter regional economy between Konkan and plateau of Maharashtra was stopped. The old famous ports, towns and market centres of the Konkan declined and the new ports and towns emerged. The Bombay Textile industry siphoned off the working man power of the Konkan. Whereas at present this region with

exception of some tahsils of Thane district has become 'money-order economy region' supported by the migrants to Bombay. In brief, the entire Konkan region has remained to be a hinterland of the fast growing part of Bombay throughout the history.

8.0 AIMS OF THE PRESENT STUDY :

8.1 Though the Konkan region is endowed with natural and human resources it has remained under-developed, and has been regarded as one of the neglected and most backward areas in the state of Maharashtra. However, in the context of population geography, socially and economically, Konkan districts showing differences from the rest of Maharashtra. Regions of Konkan also differ from each other.

8.2 The primary aim of this study is to map, describe and interpret the present distribution of population in the Konkan region and to examine what factors are responsible for the variation in the distribution and in other components of population, in the Konkan region. The efforts for the development by the

Government agencies are also ^{to be} critically evaluated ^{in the} context of ^{population} characteristics.

8.3 In addition an attempt has also been made to give a critical account of different resources (i.e. human resources ^{particularly} in addition to the ~~and other~~ natural resources). Moreover the

present study attempts to examine the regional variations and causes of them. ^{in the context of population characteristics} North and South Konkan are characterised by male selective outmigrations. The migratory trend and typical age composition and sex ratio are responsible for specific occupational structure which varies from North to South, commensurating the proximity of urbanised neighbouring areas. The study of Konkan population alongwith regional resource development is very important to a great extent.

8.4 This proposed study encompasses all the components of population characteristics of the Konkan region with the aim of accessing the present available manpower, analysing the population resource relationship and suggesting the ways and means for better regional development.

In brief the study 'Population Geography of Konkan' aims at the following aspects :

1. Examination of the factors that are responsible for the variations in the components of Konkan population.
2. The analysis of the components of population and the trend of migration.
3. An appraisal of the resources of the Konkan region. Assessment of the population based on human resource

potentials and scope or plan for regional development of the region.

8.5 The role of a geographer is very vital in synthesizing the findings of other branches of knowledge and in presenting a complete picture of the region or state which may then pass on in the hands of the planner ^{for} ~~for~~ ^{to} ~~retouching~~ ^{for retouching}. Therefore, an attempt has been made to synthesize a few facts relating to the population geography of the Konkan region and it is hoped that some of the findings will be of use to those who are engaged in developmental planning of Konkan region. Thus the study aims at better management of human resources ^{relation to} in the ~~context of~~ physical resource setting ^{for right} ~~direction in regional development~~ ^{planning and development}.

9.0 METHODOLOGY :

9.1 As this work had to be done single handedly, I hope the readers will take into consideration the obvious limitations. It was not possible to collect in each case the primary data regarding all aspects of population. Therefore, ^{were} secondary data was obtained from Government census and from some other offices.

The study region comprises of four districts (1981 census) with 42 tahsils. Therefore, taluka is selected with suitable data base for studying the region.

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9.2 Every component of population of the region had gone under the process of analysis. For different components we have prepared maps. These maps were useful for comparison and description of the regional variations.

For analysis and mapping the data, the whole study is divided into 10 topics. The topics are according to the various components of population. In the 9th Chapter some gaps between human resources and physical resources are mentioned while the conclusions are given in the 10th chapter.

10.0 PREVIOUS WORK DONE ON THE KONKAN REGION :

10.1 In the field of geography few persons have contributed their work on the Konkan region, some of these studies deal with fruit farming, horticulture and agriculture with geoanalysis and one deals with industrial geography. Besides these studies, two dissertations are done by Post graduate students of Bombay University, which led our attention towards the study of industries in the Konkan region in the field of geography. These are 'Locational study of Industries in Thane' (1974) and 'Growth of Industries in The Trans Thane Belapur Road Area' (1974).

10.2 Among the studies on the region by non-geographers a mention may be made of 'Techno-economic Survey of Konkan' prepared by Indian Merchants Chamber

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(1963), 'Techno-economic study of Ratnagiri District' for development ancillaries prepared by SISI, Bombay, (1979), 'Socio-Economic and Technical Survey of the Konkan Region' prepared by Bank of Maharashtra, Pune (1982); 'Industrial Development of Konkan' by Kulkarni (unpublished thesis, 1955); 'Rural Labour in Konkan' by Donde W.B. (unpublished thesis, 1951), 'Effect of Bombay Cotton Mills on Ratnagiri's Rural Population' by Patel (unpublished thesis 1961); 'New centre in the Trans Thane Creek region of Bombay' by Sule Anilkumar M. (unpublished thesis submitted for the degree of Master of City Planning Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, ITI, Kharagpur, 1970); 'Landuse Action Plan- Konkan' prepared by operation Research group (study sponsored by DCK, Bombay, 1980).

10.3 The above account indicates that the attempt has not been made to examine, analyse and interpret the population and population structure, occupation structure by any Geographer. Therefore, it may be humbly mentioned that this is the first attempt to make a comprehensive study of the Konkan region in the field of Population geography.

11.0 SOURCES OF DATA AND INFORMATION USED FOR THE PRESENT STUDY :

11.1 It is necessary to list up in details all the sources from which a fund of information and a lot of

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data are derived during the course of this research work.

Statistical data used for the present study have been collected from the different sources. Data regarding total population (tahsilwise), density, literacy, sex ratio, occupational structure, agriculture etc. are taken from census books of 1961-71^{1961, 1971} and 1981. Data regarding industries and the industrial workers have been collected from the action plans, which were prepared by office of the Director, of Statistics and Industrial Department of the state government.

11.2 Statistical data regarding finance and other new projects have been taken from the office of the Konkan Vikas Mahamandal, Bombay. The statistical information regarding Kudal Industrial Estate and Industrial units there have been taken from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Office, Kudal as well as from the entrepreneurs' interviews during the field visits.

11.3 The statistical data and information about birth rate, death rate and migrations have been taken from the district statistical departments of Thane, Raigad and Ratnagiri districts. For migration, particularly about out-migrations, comprehensive questionnaires were sent to native people of the region and at the same time direct interview technique was used. The response to questionnaire was very encouraging.

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The candidate
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