CHAPTER-I
CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction:

Rural economy is almost an agro based economy, vulnerable to various climatic and socio-economic factors. In the drought-prone zone, the agricultural development is low. However, irrigation has caused the emergence of agriculturally developed regions. This kind of regional variation has been observed within a block or tahsil if micro-level study is carried out. It may be assumed that agronomic development is well reflected in the level of human resource development. This may be understood by carrying out a study at a village level.

The gap between industrial growth and agricultural growth is not bridged even after 60 years independence. This disparity in rural development ultimately affects the livelihood of people in rural and urban areas. This has led to constant flow of rural urban migration creating pressure on urban amenities. The levels of development are well reflected in the levels of human resource development (Jagdale, 2002). This kind of study is expected to understand the geo-environmental aspects of development and may throw light on causes and effects of socio-economic growth on the development of human resources in the rural sector.

1.2 Importance of the Study:

The present study aims to understand the intricacies of human resource development and to find out differential levels of human resource development within the tahsil at a micro level, by selecting the Rahuri tahsil as a study region. This kind of study has significance for future planning aiming at achieving inclusive growth. It would certainly be useful for planners, researchers and implementation agencies. Such studies can also exhibit a good example of utility of geographical studies for socio-economic development.

1.3 Hypothesis:

The uneven development of tahsil is mainly associated with the geographical disparities. This may be identified through the level of human resource development in the villages within the study area. The villages in the tahsil thus, can be classified according to the level of human development. A strategy to resolve the problems of
low level of development can be formulated for each region so as to minimize the disparity and achieve over all development.

The present study is based on the hypothesis that "The level of human resource development is the pulse of rural development and hence by adopting proper planning strategies the under developed villages can achieve development and thereby reduce the intra-regional disparity"

1.4 Study Area:

The Rahuri Tahsil of Ahmadnagar district in Maharashtra state has been selected for the present work. The tahsil comprises of 95 villages and two urban centers spread over an area of are 100868 hectares (1,008 sq. Km). The absolute geographical location of the study area can be expressed as from 19° 15' N to 19° 34' N latitude and 74° 23' 30" E to 74° 50' E longitude. Rahuri tahsil lies in the rain shadow zone of the Western Ghats in the middle of Pravara and Mula basin. About 45% of the net Sown Area (NSA) is under irrigation which provides the base for establishment of two sugar factories and 14 chilling plants with a good network of dairy collection centres.

The population of the tahsil according to the 2001 census is 295093 with about 51.70 % as male and 48.30 % as female population. According to the provisional figures of 2011 census the total population of the tahsil increased to 325932 with decadal growth of 10.45 %.

The Rahuri tahsil is bounded by Rahata tahsil on the north, Nagar tahsil on the south, Nevasa on the east and Sangamner and Parner tahsil on the west, of the same district.
1.5 Main Objectives:

The present study proposes to analyse the level of rural development, particularly human resource development in the context of the socio-economic set up of the Rahuri Tahsil of Ahmednagar district. The study intends to adopt a geographical approach. This means that attempt will be made to find out the level of human resource development. Any geographical study can start with an understanding of the physiographic profile of the study area. This may be followed by the analysis of the demographic characteristics at the village level. Thus, the population resources are carried out to identify the micro regions on the basis of the backward to the developing levels of the human resource development. The objectives of the study may briefly be outlined as follows,

1. To study the physiographic profile of the Rahuri tahsil, district Ahmednagar.
2. To analyse the demographic characteristics of the tahsil using the village and the circle level information.
3. To understand the socio-economic profile of the tahsil.
4. To assess the level of human resource development of each village on the basis of the demographic, social, economic and infrastructural parameters. This will be useful to evolve the micro-regions for planning.
5. To carry out the case studies of the sample villages on the basis of backward, poor, moderately developing and developing level of human resource development after regionalization.
6. To suggest the planning strategies for improving the level of human resource development and for reducing the disparities in human resource development in each micro-region.

1.6 Methodology:

1.6.1 Database:

The data of the physiographic factors associated with the human activities particularly the level of human resource development were studied. The parameters like topography, climate, soil, drainage pattern etc. have been considered for this study. The data regarding rainfall and temperature have been collected from the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The Data related to the topography of the study area is procured from Survey of India topographical Maps (47 I/6, 47 I/7, 47I/10, 47 I/14, 47 I/15 and 47I/16).
Considering a village as a unit for the Rahuri talsil in Ahmadnagar district of Maharashtra, the data pertaining to different aspects of the study area is collected from the Village Talathi Office, Grampanchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Tahsil office Rahuri, Department of Irrigation, Department of Education and other departments of the Rahuri talsil and District Census Handbook. The data pertaining to the period from 1981 to 2001 and the provisional census figures of 2011 are considered for the study. Moreover, some information regarding issues of human resource development was collected through the group interviews of the villagers and knowledgeable persons. A questionnaire was prepared for collecting information from Talathi and Gram Sevak.

1.6.2 Approach:

The aim of the present study is to investigate the level of human resource development of the study area. It also attempts to prepare the action plan to achieve human resource development and at the same time suggests the strategies to minimize the disparities in socio-economic development within the study area. The study has been carried out according to the following steps:

1.6.2.1 Physiographic Study:

Any geographical study requires a physiographic profile of the study region as the basic work. Therefore, the present study has also carried out a brief physiographic study of the region to identify the dominant or prevailing factors in the region, for example the climatic factors may not be considered as prevailing factors affecting the intra-regional variation as they are common for almost all the villages in the study area. The topographic factors have shown their direct influence on the accessibility and in turn the amenities and hence have been explained thoroughly.

1.6.2.2 Demographic Study:

The demographic data have been analysed to understand the population resources which has direct bearing on the human resource development. The parameters like density, growth and sex ratio have been considered as the indicators of the demographic resources.

1.6.2.3 Study of Social Parameters:

The socio-cultural profile of any village is dependent upon the social structure of the population and educational, medical and communication facilities. The data regarding such facilities have been analysed to understand the level of human resource development for all the villages.
1.6.2.4 Economic Study:

The economic parameters like transportation, number of workers, main workers, marginal workers, other workers, number of families below poverty line and paisevari have been considered to understand the level of human resource development.

1.6.3 Score Method:

The study has been carried out with above mentioned approach and 17 parameters have been converted into appropriate scores with the view of human resource development in mind. The scores, thus obtained have been added so as to evolve the composite score for a village. The villages then were classified on the basis of composite scores and the micro-regions have been identified.

1.6.4 The Techniques:

1.6.4.1 Composite scores:

The present study has adopted a parametric approach for investigating the human resource development at a micro-level. In the process of the analysis, the level of human resource development was calculated by observing various demographic, socio-economic and infrastructural parameters at a village level. Score method is used to quantify the index of human resource development. On the basis of the score values of the various parameters, the villages in the tahsil were classified into the four regions- 1) backward 2) poor 3) moderately developing and 4) developing. The region of two urban centers has been considered separately.

For easy understanding, every parameter has been converted into scores. The score values have been assigned to a village for each parameter. The score values of the selected variables have been based on the relevance to the human resource development and the range within the tahsil. The score values of the parameters like population density, population growth, sex ratio, irrigated area, families below poverty line, main workers, other main workers and marginal workers have been computed using the range from mean (-) 3 STD to mean (+) 3 STD. This is nothing but, the application of the Z score method. The difference between the Z score and the score given in the present study is that the score values have been given signs. Therefore, the villages having values less than the mean are positively scored.
Secondly, the score values are in discrete series, while the Z score values are in the continuous series.

1.6.4.2 Computer Techniques:

The database has a matrix of number of parameters x 97 villages (rows), for such a large size quantitative data, computer techniques are essential to obtain mean, standard deviation and bivariate correlation. Further, for preparation of the summary tables from matrix of village wise scores of 17 parameters computer techniques have been found to be suitable.

1.6.4.3 GIS Techniques:

The analysis and integration of the multivariate and multi date data may be carried out and presented by using the GIS techniques. The vector based GIS software Gram++, Global Mapper and Surfer has been used to prepare the maps to show the intraregional variation. In addition, this physiographic maps like slope, drainage and relief maps were prepared and presented by applying the GIS techniques.

1.6.5 Case Study:

Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) technique is also used for the case studies. The case studies of the villages from different classes according to the levels of human resource development have been carried out. The researcher has carried out a detailed survey of the villages by adopting both, the qualitative and quantitative approach. The case studies technique involves RRA and village survey, (Robert C, 2006).

RRA is one of the many methodologies that can be used for learning and thinking about the agriculture and population in an area. It is free from the more rigid structures of the science and technology, in particular the rigours of experimentation and quantification. RRA does have rigours derived from the social sciences.

RRA has been particularly useful in the approach for studying the complex problems, especially those in which 'people factor' is prominent. This is not to say that science and technology do not have a place in investigating the complex problems of the land. However, the science and technology should be supplemented with the social science approach to get the holistic approach to study any complex problem.
RRA is also known as participatory rural appraisal (PRA). It is a "quick and direct" broad-level assessment. RRA technique is used to obtain a broad perspective of the community or group being studied. Moreover, it focuses mainly on those key informants who give most knowledge about an area and uses a variety of social science tools and methods, including secondary data analysis, observation, and case study. The following steps have been used for the case studies.

**Step: 1. Selection of the villages for the case studies:**

Village code numbers of all the villages in the tahsil were considered for the purpose of random selection. For this, the rules followed for the selection of the villages for the case study are as below;

**Rule 1:** At least one village must be selected from each of the four rural micro regions.

**Rule 2:** No villages were selected from the different micro regions but, having the common village boundaries. This means that the method of ‘forced dispersion’ has been adopted for finalization of the selection of villages.

**Step: 2. Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) technique:**

Once the village is selected, the tahsil head quarter was approached for the purpose of the rapid rural appraisal (RRA) technique which has been carried out. This technique has confirmed that the classification based on score method is quite apt.

**Step: 3. Village survey:**

The selected villages were visited three times. In these visits to the villages, the land use data and detailed village map for the recent years were procured. A brief socio-economic profile was also prepared. The observations regarding the problems associated with drinking water, electricity, market for agricultural goods, time required for transportation to market by different modes of transportation, the schools and other educational facilities, availability of the medical facility, problems regarding the emergency health care services etc. were made. All these observations were documented by the researcher.

**Step: 4. Group discussion with the villagers:**

With the proper socio-economic village profile in mind, group meetings were conducted with the villagers to understand the problems of the villages. This exercise helped to understand not only the problems but also the priorities of the problems associated with the human resource development. To achieve the correctness of the
study three group meetings of different groups of the people were conducted in each of the selected village.

Thus, the case studies of four villages have been conducted and presented in the Chapter VI of the present study.

The selection of four villages has been made with the stratified random sampling method with forced dispersion approach. The selected villages and their respective regions are given in table (Table No. 1.1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Level of Development (Regions)</th>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Name of Village</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Backward</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Jambhali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Kuranwadi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Moderately developing Village</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Kondhvad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Developing Village</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Chincholi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.7 Arrangement of Text:

The entire work has been arranged in the seven chapters. The first chapter opens with the introduction of the study including the main objectives of the study, the hypothesis and the methodology used for the study. The chapter ends with the arrangement of the text and the review of the previous literature.

The second chapter presents the profile of the tahsil which includes the position of the tahsil in the district and the state, ranking of the tahsil in the district, historical background and administrative setup is also given. The physiographic setup of the tahsil is given in the next part of the chapter. The chapter ends with the discussion about the position of power supply, household density and role of the Mahatma Phule Agriculture University in the development of Rahuri tahsil.

The third chapter is devoted to the demographic study of the tahsil. It discusses the village size and the population distribution at the village level. The middle part of the chapter explains the density of population, population growth and sex ratio. The chapter ends with the study about literacy, distribution of the scheduled caste population and distribution of the scheduled tribe population.
The fourth chapter discusses the socio-economic and infrastructural characteristics of the study region. The parameters such as the total workers, main total workers, and marginal workers are analysed. Also, the village wise comparison of the workers in the tahsil is given in the opening part of chapter. The infrastructural characteristics like irrigation, families below poverty line, paisevargi, drinking water facility, medical facilities and educational facilities are discussed in the next part of the chapter. The chapter ends with the analysis of the data on the accessibility of transportation and communication facility in the villages of Rahuri tahsil.

The Chapter five devotes to the topic of regionalization of human resource development. It is at the core of the entire study. It gives details about the need of human resource development and the concept of regionalization etc. It brings out the methodology and the parameters of scoring for human resource development. There have been selected 17 parameters to study the levels of human resource development in the study area. After analysing the levels of human resource development in the villages in the tahsil into four regions, the chapter suggests the planning strategy for various levels of human resource development. The chapter concludes with working out the correlation of various parameters.

The Chapter six of the study brings out the case study results. At the beginning, it gives details of the methodology of the case study. The methodology of the Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) is used for the case study. The chapter concludes with the discussion on the problems of the villages as perceived by the researcher, priority given by the villagers and finally, the planning strategies for the inclusive and sustainable development of human resources for each village of the case study.

The Chapter Seven is the concluding chapter and gives the findings of the present study and strategy. The chapter gives the scope of further studies on the line of the present study. It presents the limitations of the study. It also, gives the testing of the hypothesis of the study.

1.8 Previous Literature:

For the present study, a brief survey of the literature available on the relevant subject is made. Most of the works while studying this subject have, for the convenience, into various grouped. These are:
1.8.1 Population Geography:

1.8.2 Human Resource Development

1.8.3 Human resource development and Planning:

1.8.4 Study about Study area:

1.8.1 Population Geography:

During the past few decades, the major aspects covered by these studies are discussed here by highlighting the recent trends.

Ghosh (1985), Chandana (1985), Baghel (1995) etc. have made it clear that population geography has evolved as a new branch of human geography. Tiwari (1998) has found population geography as one of the important branch of geography particularly the human geography. Baghel (1995) has discussed about population geography in details and has concluded that geography of population is a recent sprout of geographical science. This branch though a new one, has gained popularity. With this more and more people are drawn to the study of population geography. Obviously, the subject in question has been responsible for improving the scope of this subject. Thus, population geography has become a major branch of geography.

Even though, the branch of population geography includes many demographic studies, it is different from the subject of demography. As per Chandana (1985), Agarwal (1988), Bhende and Kanitkar (1988), Hans Raj (1996). and Ghosh (1985) demography has been devoted to numbers and places great emphasis on statistical methods. In contrast, the study of population geography correlate numbers to area and relies on mapping.

Of late, many workers such as Ghosh (1985), Bhende and Kanitkar (1988), Ranade and Shastri (1990), Ghosh(1993), Chandana (1994), Sawant (1994), Hans Raj (1996), Tiwari (1998) have focused on population studies and have contributed to a large extent to enrich the subject of population geography.

In the study of population distribution and pattern of distribution has attained importance. The scholars like Mazumdar (1973), Mehta (1973), Saptarshi (1993), Kadam and Saptarshi (1999), Jagdale and Saptarshi (2001), Jagdale (2002). Sharma (2006) have described in details the study of population distribution in various regions. These studies help us to know and explain the spatial variation of density of population. This type of study has helped in identifying the factors affecting the distribution of population in a macro or micro region.
Growth of population is one of the major aspects of population geography. The future trend of population growth can be better understood by studies, devoted to the aspect of growth of population. As suggested by Karmarkar (1981), in addition to above, they help in identifying futuristic patterns of population and problems thereof. The studies brought out by Gosal (1982), Singh (1982), Singh(1984), Gill (1987), Gosal (1990), Singh (1992), Siddiqui (1995), Galade and Kale (1996), Chandana (1996) have been relevant to the problem and prospects of growth of population. Galade and Kale have adopted the formula put forth by Chakravarti and studied and described the population growth of Satara district. They have described density, absolute and relative increase of population and classified the tahsils of the district into six population growth regions.

On studying available literature in population geography, it is concluded that the subject in question is mainly related to the basic realities of the problems associated with distribution, growth, structure and migration etc. Micro level approach is required to be adopted as found out in recent trend to fully understand and comprehend the intricacies of the problems. Many geographers have devoted their energies towards understanding of casual relationship to improve the utility and consequent scope of the subject. Thus, the branch has become more relevant to the problems of population. The planners and policy makers have taken note of this and incorporated it in their planning.

1.8.2 Human Resource Development:

The appraisal of human resources and strategic planning for development have been found in the literature of demography, population geography and even in management studies. The understanding of human resources by demographers are through the parameters like the level of literacy, age and sex distribution, population growth, density of population sex ratio and standard of living etc.

The studies of management science are greatly and basically concerned with human resource development within the micro-economic sectors. The management sector mostly devoted their studies to human resource development in the corporate sector in which the approach is invariably to make the employees more comfortable, resourceful, energetic and above all efficient corporate sectors are always bent on maximum input and hence the peculiar approach of this sector. Gupta (1994), Chaudhari (1994), Malhotra (1995), Jain (1995). The geographers on the other hand, have to approach a holistic approach and study spatial variation in levels of human
resource development. However, it is seen that very small numbers of studies have
been observed on these lines. Some of the geographers give their thrust on population,
social factors and still some to economic factors of human resource development.

Many scholars have emphasized the importance of human resources. According to Gosal (1995) human resources are more important than natural
resources. For overall development, Dixit (1996) finds human resources are very vital.
As per opinion of Mali (1999) development of any region is based on natural and
human resources.

Many geographers such as Tripathi (1986), Gosal (1995), Baghel (1995), Arya
indicated the importance of study of various aspects of human resource development
and for this they have adopted indicators approach to study human resource
development and its correlation visa a viz regional development. Thus, it can be
safely concluded that development of any given region depends directly on quality
and quantity of population of that region.

For measuring human resource development, workers, geographers and
(2000), HRD Report (2000) have evolved and adopted certain parameters. It will be
worthwhile to take cognizance of some of these views. Many geographers had given
prime importance to per capita income, life expectancy, education, per capita
consumption of electricity and health facilities for human resource point of view.
Gosal (1995) finds population growth; literacy, education, technical education and
health care facilities are the important factors for quantifying human resources. He
has found that all parameters of human resource development are interrelated amongst
themselves either directly or indirectly and hence, these form an integral unit in total
development process. Saptarshi (1996) on the other hand has adopted parameters like
density of population, population growth rates, and literacy as proxy indicators of the
quality of human resources.

Tripathi (1989), Gupta (1994), Gupta (1998) and Mali (1999) have made an attempt to
measure human resource development with the help of various indices like literacy
level and educational standard. Amongst all elements of characteristics of population,
education is the best exposition of socio-economic development. Gosal (1988) has
found education is the best exposition of socio-economic development. Gosal (1988) has found education as the most pivotal factor associated with resource development.

According to Chaube (1986), De (1991), Rai (1992), Dev (1994), Singh (1994), Tiwari (1994), Pawar and Chaudhari (1996), Acharya (1997), have concluded that health facilities are most important for development of human resources. Similarly, (Sharma, 2002) has indicated on health facilities to understand human resource development. He further concludes that human development is directly dependent on provision for good health and achieving as a consequence long life and high longevity. Gosal (1995) has stated that healthy and able bodied men and women can be more productive and are better placed to meet challenges than those who are not healthy and suffer from malnutrition and malnutrition related health problems. Chaube (1986) and Saptarshi (1996) have found that human health is closely related to the availability of safe drinking water and hence have found piped drinking water is essential for healthiness.

Singh and Pathare (1982) have considered that transport facilities such as all weather asphalted roads and goods vehicles and rail wagons availability are most important for economic, social and cultural development of a region. Similarly, Misra and Tripathi (1991) have found transportation as a key factor in the process of natural development and the process of urban industrial growth and the constant process of cultural change and interaction in a particular region.

Husain (1994) has found that the human resource development depends on per capita consumption of energy. Mahato (1982) has concluded that economic prosperity rises in direct proportion to the rise in per capita consumption of electric power.


Various geographical factors can be used to demarcate a region. As per Gosal (1982), Sengupta (1985), Saptarshi (1993), Baghel (1995), Nigam (1996) and Mali (1999) have concluded that demarcation of a region depends on objective of the study. The first step of planning is rationalization. Saptarshi (1993) has attempted a regional classification on the basis of natural environment and human resources. Baghel (1995) has delineated human resource regions on the basis of rural population density, growth rate, urbanization, rural literacy and nonagricultural workers. Gosal (1982) has demarcated five growth regions of India on the basis of population growth. Sengupta
(1985) has divided India into three human resource regions on the basis of population characteristics. These are Dynamic, Prospective and Problematic.

Planning is most important for all round development of region. Scholars like Singh and Pathak (1982), Jana (1990), Sundaram (1992) Saptarshi (1993), Dev (1994), Singh (1994), Jana (1996), Mehta (1997), Pawar and Chaudhari (1997) have given importance to planning in regional development. For utilization of human resources and in a particular area, planning is necessary for full development. Singh (1994) has indicated human resource planning as an integrated plan for economic and other goals essential for rural development. De (1991) has suggested planning of health services in order to make them more efficient. For doing the review should be taken of adequacy of existing services at micro level.

Integrated approach is necessary to know the level of human resource development. The present study is based on village level data and aims at identifying the micro-regions according to human resources.

1.8.3 Human resource Development and Planning:

The study of human resources and strategic planning for development have been found in the literature of demography, population geography and even in management studies. The understanding of human resources by demographers is through the parameters like the level of literacy, age and sex distribution, population growth, density of population and sex ratio etc.

The studies of management science are greatly and basically concerned with human resource development within the micro-economic sectors. The management sector mostly devoted their studies to human resource development in the corporate sector in which the approach is invariably to make the employees more comfortable, resourceful, energetic and above all efficient corporate sectors are always bent on maximum input and hence the peculiar approach of this sector. Gupta (1994), Chaudhari (1994), the geographers on the other hand, have to approach a holistic approach and study spatial variation in levels of human resource development. However, it is seen that very small number of studies has been observed on these lines. Some of the geographers give their thrust on population, social factors and still some to economic factors of human resource development

The evaluation of human resources may be useful to understand the problems of the region and level of development. Human population is not to be placed along with natural resources on the same plane in the development process. It is commonly
believed that population is not only a resource but an ‘active’ resource for that matter, Gosal (1995). This aspect has been studied by many scholars in geography e.g. Banerjee (1992) Ahmed (1979), Das (1983), Hyman (2001), Hyams (2003), Tripathy (2010) and other. They have emphasized that socio-economic factors like man-power resources, rural urban linkage, employment, government policies should be given due consideration while designing plans for regional development. Human resource development is known as the only pivotal element for regional structured development. Human resource development is caused by development of educational and health facilities, urbanization and industrial development as stated by Mali (1999). Evaluation of human resource can be possible on the basis of the parameters related to population, agriculture, social make up of a region etc. Using quantitative techniques the data regarding such parameters may be analysed and regional units may be classified accordingly to understand level of human resource development Saptarshi, (1993), Jagadale and Saptarshi, (1996), Jagadale (2002) and Ugale (2006). The present study attempts to assess level of human resources for each village in the tahsil. For this, multivariate approach has been adopted. The score values of different parameters have been computed for understanding human resource development. The method has been explained in the following paragraph.

The Govt. of Maharashtra, in collaboration with the Central Planning Commission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has prepared a comprehensive Human Development report in June 2002. On the basis of a few major variables, i.e. district per capita income, rate of adult literacy, average number of schooling years, and infant mortality rates (IMR) have been used to construct the Human Development Index (HDI) for each district of the State. This report will provide a good basis for framing specific policies to reduce regional disparities in the State.

Human Development Report – Maharashtra 2002:

The third five year plan (1961-66) of Maharashtra state discussed, for the first time, by using certain indicators of development, the relative levels of development of four regions of the State. In 1975 the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune published a study of ‘Regional Planning for Marathwada’, in which it also discussed the relative levels of development of Greater Mumbai, Pune region, Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.
Narottam Shah (1980), a member of the State Planning Board published a report on the levels of development of the districts in Maharashtra. The following important conclusions emerged from this study: 1) The total number of 29 districts in Maharashtra, 11 districts had attained high level of development, while 3 districts could reach ‘medium level’ and remaining 15 districts were identified as ‘backward’ or at ‘lower level of development’ 2) Most of these 15 districts belonged to the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions. In 1993, the State Planning Board of the Government of Maharashtra, appointed a Study Group under the Chairmanship of Kulkarni, to identify the ‘backward areas in Maharashtra State’. This Study Group identified, by using 12 indicators of development, 17 districts in the State as ‘backward. Of these 17 backward districts, 6 districts belonged to the Marathwada, eight districts to Vidarbha and three to the Rest of Maharashtra region.

Recently in 1995, the Governor of Maharashtra appointed the ‘Indicators and Backlog Committee’ to study the impact of the expenditure incurred by the government from 1984-1994. On the three regions of the state, on the basis of the recommendation made by the Dandekar Committee in 1984. This committee concluded that the regional imbalance between 3 regions of the state had increased four fold! Hence, the very purpose of reducing regional imbalance in the state appears to have been defeated.

In 1997, the Govt. of India appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of E.A.S. Sharma, to identify “100 poorest Districts” in the Country. It is surprising to note that, this Committee identified 10 poorest districts (10 %) poorest districts in highly developed state Maharashtra. Out of these 10 districts, seven districts belonged to the Marathwada and remaining three districts to the Vidharbha region. This amply proves the lopsided development of the state during the last 40 years.

Recently, a research paper titled, “An Assessment of regional Disparities in Sectoral Development in Bagalkot District, Karnataka State” by Hangaragi, analyses the relative importance of various groups’ parameters (sectoral) influence the levels of development in the study area.

1.8.4 Study about Study area:

The study area of the present work is Rahuri tahsil of Ahmadnagar district. It will be interesting to know the study already undertaken by various workers and researchers on this study area. Aher (2006), studied the impact of canal irrigation on development of agriculture in Ahmadnagar district.- A geographical analysis in his
unpublished Ph.D. thesis the study included the area of present study i.e. Rahuri tahsil.

Shingote and Kadam (2006) published their study about micro level analysis of correlation between rural settlement and standard of living of people. For this study they have selected village Tandulner from Rahuri tahsil.

Similarly, Sulakshana Mahajan, an architect and town planning experts from Thane published about the problems of small towns in the Samaj Prabodhan Patrika. Her study is included the town of Rahuri in addition to Ashta and Varora.

Aher, More and Musmade (2008) published about Impact of Irrigation on crop diversification in Ahmadnagar district. Nalage (2009), in his dissertation submitted to Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune for M. Phil degree presented a geographical analysis of land use pattern in Rahuri tahsil in Ahmadnagar district.

Résumé

This chapter has given the introduction to the topic and the study area. It includes hypothesis, main objectives and methodology. The methodology gives details of database, approach, physiographic studies, demographic studies, study of social parameters, economic study and composite score method. The techniques like, computer, GIS, case study is also presented in methodology. This chapter also includes the arrangement of text and previous literature. The next chapter deals with profile of the study region in details.