CHAPTER II

AREA AND PEOPLE
The district of Sagar lying to the north central region of Madhya Pradesh derives its name from the Hindi name Sagar meaning 'lake'. It is situated between 23°10' and 24°27' north latitude and between 78°4' and 79°21' east latitude, the district has a truly central location in the country. The tropic of cancer passes through the southern part of the district.

The climate of this district is generally pleasant and salubrious. The cold season from November to February is followed by the hot season from April to middle of June. Mid December to January is the coldest months of the year with the average temperature ranging from maximum of 18.05°C to minimum of 1.05°C. The average mean monthly temperature during the month of May reaches the highest point of 33°C to 45°C. The monsoon of Sagar is usually very heavy during the months of July and August, and ranges to 166 mm. The place receives rains during winter also which is about 77 mm. Basically Sagar has a moderate climate.
The district consists of five tehsils, namely Sagar, Banda, Bina, Khurai and Rehli. This district is the sixteenth largest in size in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It covers an area of 10,200 square kilometer and is shaped roughly like a triangle with its vertex in the south while its base lies towards its north. The longest extremeties of the district is along the south-east to north-east direction and is about 105 miles or 168.98 kms long, while the base of the triangle measures about 75 miles or 120.70 kms.

The district is bounded on its north by Jhansi, a district of Uttar Pradesh and at its south by the districts of Narsingpur and Raisen district of Vidisha binds it on its west, district of Damoh, which was previously a part of Sagar, binds it on its east. District Chhatarpur and Guna are found on its north-east and north-west respectively.

The topography and land scape of Sagar is full of hillocks and valleys which on the contrary has affected the residential pattern of the city. Uddan Shah, a descendant of Nihal Shah, ways back to about 1660 A.D., built a small fort, on the site of the present one, and also founded a village close to it called Parkota, which in the process of time was engulfed into the town and hence has now become a part of the city.

The descendants of the founder could not
rule this land for a longer period. Later the Chandels, the Marathas and the Britishers established their rules successively. In the year 1818 A.D. Britishers acquired control over the territory by making a treaty with the Marathas, and it was during the regime of the Britishers that the Sagar town took the propensity to acquire the present commerce, military and missionary settlement, (District Gazetteers 1906)

The diversity on the morphological features of the population of Madhya Pradesh is fairly rich. People here generally are of fair skin, tall stature and thin lips, found living along with the people of exceedingly darker skin, medium to short height or stature and consisting of thinner lips. The hair structure varies from wavy to curly, colour being dark to medium brown. This diversity in physical forms denotes the contribution to the present diversification of physical forms in the population. Different ethnic stocks must have inbread with the native population in the successive wave of migrations thereby adding to the variability of the ethnic diversity of the area.

Census 1951 reported the growth of population of Sagar district which during those times included the present Damoh district and was 9,93,654. In 1954 the boundaries of the district were redrawn and Damoh sub division was formed into a separate district. The population according to 1951 census report, as has been
described by Krishnan 1967 was 6,36,191. During the years from 1901 to 1951 the population of the district increased by 1,66,505 persons or nearly 35.5 per cent as reports are given in 1981 census.

According to the census report of 1981 the population was observed to grow just double, that is, ranging to 6,86,941 as can be seen from the table 2.1. The table gives the detailed increase in population of Sagar district from 1901 to 1981 in density per square kilometer.

Table 2.2 gives a detailed estimate of partial adult male and female population of 12 wards, which have been dealt in the study.

The principal communities inhabiting Sagar are Hindus, Muslims and Jains. The population of the district is predominantly Hindus who number 12, 16, 114 according to 1981 census report, which is about 91.9 per cent of the total adjusted population of about 13,23,132. The muslim population remains to be second highest in distribution inhabiting Sagar, which amounts to 54,507 according to the 1981 census. The decrease in the Muslim population during the decade ending 1951 may be attributed to the movement of some Muslims from the district having migrated from the country on account of the establishment of Pakistan as has been reported by Krishnan 1967.
The Hindus are divided into several castes and sub-castes ranging from Brahmins which occupies the higher order form in religion, to Kurmis and Chamars, which is believed to be lowest of all, following Hinduism. Muslims, as Krishnan 1967 states are distributed between rural and urban areas, obviously following their religion.

Three other religious communities that are according to 1981 census reported, occupy larger part of population are Sikhs, Jains and Christians. A few Budh religious communities have also been reported by the same media (Table 2.3).
Sagar district with well over 90 per cent of the population speaking only one language, Hindi is linguistically a homogenous district. It lies on the southern part of the Bundelkhand tract and is characterised by the standard Bundeli dialect of Western Hindu, Krishnan 1967. Nagari and Kaithi are usually made use of in writing Bundeli.

On the contrary languages spoken other than Hindi and Bundeli are Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi and of course, Sindhi, is mainly due to influence of displaced persons who may have migrated in the late years of the past decade into Sagar. Rural population are over 90 per cent Hindi speaking with a tinge of Bundeli dialect in their expression. Sagar being in the heart of our country is very beautiful, primarily because of lake and secondly because of the simple people.