CHAPTER VIII.

REGIONALIZATION OF THE I.S.C.R.

If anything is dominant in the geographic personality of the Inter-State Chandigarh Region, it is the vigorous, accelerating change. The population patterns of the region have been particularly volatile and symptomatic of the rapid transformation of its total geographical character, though there are variations in these attributes within the region.

In the foregoing chapters, a systematic analysis of the different attributes of population of the Inter-State Chandigarh Region has been attempted. But there is need to examine the integrated spatial synthesis of these changes that have taken place in the region during the years 1951-71 because the study of regionalization of population, in all its aspects, constitutes an integral part of population geography. "The interrelatedness of things that vary in space must be probed as they endow specific places with unique personalities"\(^1\). Also, this brings order out of disorder that initially appears in spatial distributions.

Thus "regionalization is the identification of locations that have similar associations of activities and linking of these relatively homogenous locations into areas".¹

The most difficult task in delineating population regions lies in the selection of suitable criteria. Of the two possible approaches - the empirical approach is more feasible as genetic factors cannot be applied to this micro region. Also, the latter emerge by themselves during the discussion on population regions based on an empirical basis. However, the criteria of regionalization of change in the demographic character of the area need to be carefully selected on account of the striking regional contrasts that exist in spatial distributions of these attributes as discussed in the preceding chapters.

While regionalizing the area, it is difficult to ascribe ordinal places to each population element since all elements vary in their contributing force from place to place and time to time. Generally speaking, for a population geographer, the distribution and size of population is considered the most significant factor of regionalization as by comparing the nodes and axes, or areas of high and low density, the implications of the distributional pattern

are fully revealed. But since our emphasis is on changes in population characteristics during 1951-71, the growth of population and migrations, which mirror the changing patterns of economic opportunities, would be more significant in determining the basis of regionalization. Further, other attributes of population such as changes in density, rate of literacy, sex ratio, occupational structure and the degree of urbanization cannot be ignored as they have a direct relationship with the economic activities of the inhabitants of the region.

In the present study, regionalization or the division of population regions of the State Chandigarh Region has been made on the basis of growth of population with special reference to migrational patterns, the degree of urbanization, changes in occupational structure, sex ratio and disparities in literacy rate. Thus, an effort has been made to synthesise all the demographic attributes along with their socio-economic dimensions, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the demographic transformation of the region.

Based on the above criteria, the Inter-State


Chandigarh Region can be divided into three sub regions in terms of the attributes of demographic change. These sub-regions, in their own turn, are sub-divided into zones. The regionalization of the T.S.C.R. is as follows (Map 8.1).

I. AREAS OF RAPID DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE
1) The Chandigarh Zone.

II. AREAS OF SLOW DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE
2) The Hilly Zone,
3) The Southern Dissected Zone.

III. AREAS OF MODERATE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE.
4) The North-Western Upland Zone.
5) The Central and Southern Upland Zone.

I. AREAS OF RAPID DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

THE CHANDIGARH ZONE: This zone is characterized by rapid changes in the attributes of population during 1951-71. This category includes three urban centres and 229 villages situated around the nucleous city of Chandigarh and the linear belt along the Chandigarh-Kalka Highway. Hence it has aptly been called the Chandigarh Zone. In its extent, it widens in its north western, southern eastern and north-eastern parts along roads traversing through it but touches the Union Territory boundaries along its northern borders.
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
URBAN POPULATION
Data by individual urban centres

Growth Of Population 1951-71

Growth Of Population 1951-61

Growth Of Population 1961-71

Growth OF Scheduled Castes 1961-71

Map 72

Percentage Change

- Increase
- Decrease
- New Town
- 5000
- 5000-10000
- 10000-20000
- 20000-50000
- 50000

50,000 km

50,000 km

50,000 km

50,000 km

50,000 km
Inter-State Chandigarh Region

URBAN POPULATION
Data by individual urban centres

Literacy 1971

Scheduled Castes (literacy) 1971

Literacy 1961

Literacy 1951

As per cent of urban population

A C E D

0%
50%
100%

Persons

0-1,000
1,000-2,000
2,000-5,000
5,000-

M&D 74
Inter-State Chandigarh Region

URBAN POPULATION
Data by individual urban centres

Growth Of Literacy 1951-71

Growth Of Male Literacy 1961-71

Growth Of Female Literacy 1961-71

Percentage Change
- Persons
- Decrease
- New Town

Map 75
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
AREAS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE
1951-71

I. Areas of rapid demographic change
   a. Chandigarh zone

II. Areas of moderate demographic change
   b. North-western upland zone
   c. Central and southern upland zone

III. Areas of slow demographic change
   d. Hilly zone
   e. Southern dissected zone
   f. Urban centre

Map 81
The zone encompasses about one fifth i.e. 20 per cent of the total area of the I.S.C.R. It provides a significant break in the continuity of the hilly belt running along its north east and the upland plain to its south-west.

The most outstanding demographic characteristics of the Chandigarh Zone are its (i) high degree of urban development, (ii) rapid growth of population; (iii) moderate to high rate of literacy; (iv) high percentage of non-agricultural work force; and (v) a large scale commuting towards the city of Chandigarh.

In this context it may be said that the city of Chandigarh has played a pivotal role in determining the spatial patterns of the various attributes of population not only of the Chandigarh Zone but of the Inter-State Chandigarh Region as a whole. The demographic structure of the Capital city, from the day of its inception, has, in particular, influenced the characteristics of population of the surrounding villages included in the Chandigarh Zone. On account of its nodal geographic location, the city has grown quickly. With a population of 218,743 in 1971, Chandigarh city became the biggest settlement of the I.S.C.R. accounting for 73.44 per cent of the region's urban population.
This can be explained, among other things, in terms of its functions as a triple Capital City. It has witnessed during 1961-71 a growth rate of 144.9 per cent with an absolute increase of 129,477 persons out of the total increase of 267,613 persons for the corresponding period in the region as a whole. The growth of other towns of the Chandigarh Zone has been high: Mani Majra (47.81 per cent), Kharar (62.07 per cent) and Kalka (25.98 per cent). The relatively low percentage of the population growth of the town of Kalka is accounted for by the shifting of the railway workshop of Kalka to Jagadhari, taking away a large number of workers. Chandigarh's growth is unprecedented on account of its geographical location, extra regional functions, patronage of three governments and considerable employment potential.

Not only have these urban places grown by themselves, they have also made an impact on the demographic characteristics of the surrounding villages. The City of Chandigarh has influenced the growth of population of the villages situated in the zone, particularly those along the various roads. These influences are evident from:

a) The sharp rise in the density of population is due to the abundance of employment opportunities in the
fast growing city of Chandigarh. Many workers have been
attracted from other areas to the nodal centre and the
villages situated on its periphery. There has been rapid
growth of the rural population simultaneously with the
phenomenal growth of Chandigarh. The density of population
decreases with increasing distance from the nodal core
and arteries of transport.

b) The process of large scale commuting, initiated
from villages and urban centres, towards the city of
Chandigarh has caused a rapid fall in the sex ratio, quite
marked around the region's core.

c) A result of factors a) and b) has been a big increase
in the number of non-agricultural workers in the rural
areas and a significant decline in the cottage industries.
This has been taken over by small scale manufacturing
industries.

d) As a result of the enormous urban influences:
development of roads, increase in the percentage of educated
non-agricultural workers and the desire for better living,
the literacy rate in the zone has improved considerably,
especially among the females.

Associated with these population characteristics
of the Chandigarh Zone, the area has a high density of
of population: both the arithmetic and nutritional density being the highest around the Capital. The growth of population consequently has been the maximum in and around Chandigarh City. This is evident from the development of the urban estate by the Punjab Government at Mohali (S.A.S. Nagar) in 1967, Panchkula Urban Estate in 1970 by the Haryana Government, and the new industries set up in the industrial complex of Chandigarh and along the Chandigarh-Kalka road.

Thus, the zone peripheral to Chandigarh city and along Chandigarh-Kalka highway is the most dynamic part of the I.S.C.R. The dynamism of Chandigarh zone finds expression in significant changes in the demographic characteristics of the area, in the rapid growth of urban and rural population and finally in the large scale commuting towards Chandigarh.

II. AREAS OF SLOW DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE include the maximum expanse of land (about 45 per cent) of the I.S.C.R. It covers the north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern section of the region including 354 villages and two towns. It's two zones are:

THE HILLY ZONE comprises Kalka Tehsil (minus the linear belt which comes under the Chandigarh zone) and Morni
The hills of Naraingarh Tehsil. This zone is made up of 133 villages and is treated as a separate unit because it is characterized by a low degree of urban development; dependence on agriculture for livelihood; slow growth of population; low rate of increase in literacy and limited socio-economic diversification.

The density of population has not increased much during 1951-71 because the terrain is rugged and level land is scarce despite the fact that there is little economic activity other than farming. Agriculture is of subsistence type as the soils are poor, irrigation is lacking, and the area is generally backward.

The growth of literacy has been slow because physiography makes schools rather inaccessible. Besides, the traditional attitude of the inhabitants does not favour literacy and education. The result is that only about 20 per cent of the population is literate. This is mostly made up of males as only five to seven per cent of the female population is literate. The zone has witnessed only limited improvement in the rate of female literacy during the period under study, while literacy amongst the males has made some headway, particularly during the 1961-71 decade. The male-female differential is therefore considerable.
There has been an increase in the sex ratio in Morni hills because of male selective out migration in search of jobs. The lack of non-agricultural activity compels the males to leave their homes. The dearth of urbanization in the tract is evident from the absence of a township in the zone.

Thus, demographic characteristics like slow growth of population, low literacy rate, little urbanization and dependence on cultivation give this zone a distinct character.

THE SOUTHERN DISSECTED ZONE: Lying to the east of river Ghaggar, it forms another zone of slow demographic growth. It includes 221 villages and two urban centres.

The gentle gradient compared to the hilly tract and physical dissection of land made by the closely spaced chos, have given a distinctive character to this zone despite it being a component of slow demographic change. The undulating landscape, infertile soils, lack of irrigation and insufficient development of means of transport are partly responsible for the poor economy of this tract. This is expressed in terms of slow growth of population, low rate of literacy, high sex ratio due to out-migration of male workers and a little change in the percentage of people employed.
as cultivators during 1951-71 tenure.

There has been a general dearth of modern industry as during 1951-71, only household industries were run by local artisans to meet the needs of the rural people. The slow impact of urbanization is evident from the fact that there are only two towns of Dera Bassi and Naraingarh (the latter having been classified a town for the first time in the 1971 Census). Naraingarh is a tehsil headquarter while Dera Bassi's stagnant economy has resulted in the outmigration of educated male workers to the bigger towns of the region.

Literacy in this tract has made little progress. Most of the increase in literacy has been amongst the males during the decade of 1961-71. The females of this region have not yet been affected. The growth of population has been meagre.

In sum, the slow growth of population, low rate of literacy, high sex ratio, dependence on cultivation and lack of industry are the outstanding demographic features of the two zones which make them the least developed zones of the I.S.C.F.

III. AREAS OF MODERATE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE include
the north-western, western and south-western parts of the
The three urban centres and 435 villages constitute about 35 per cent of the total area of the region. Its sub-divisions are:

The North-Western Upland Zone including the section of Ropar and adjacent villages of Kharar Tehsil (Ropar District), Fatehgarh Sahib and a little tract of Rajpura Tehsil (Patiala District).

The features distinguishing this segment as a separate population zone are:

i) a moderate growth of population,
ii) high rate of change in literacy,
iii) maximum development of irrigation facilities through wells, tubewells, and canals,
iv) high yields of agricultural production;
v) outmigration of the educated young people,
vi) a moderate sex ratio and
vii) a diversified economy.

This zone has witnessed a good deal of socio-economic development as even during the British rule this part of the region received attention because of its high productivity. During the 1951-61 decades irrigation
facilities have made a headway. The techniques used by the farmers are advanced. The green revolution can be seen to have brought about prosperity to this part of the I.S.C.R. to a greater degree.

As regards literacy, the zone has made significant progress. Its growth has been a pre-independence phenomenon thanks to Sardar Baldev Singh's efforts (Page 106). The progress is more marked in the case of females especially during the decade of 1961-71.

The fragmentation of holdings to uneconomic size necessitated outmigration. Literacy and education proved to be blessing for those in search of jobs outside the tract. During the period under study, many educated persons of even the peasant families have outmigrated in search of jobs in tertiary and secondary activities within or outside the region. They have also migrated to foreign countries.

Besides this, there has been outmigration of small land owners. In some cases, they moved to other areas by buying land from big landlords who declared surplus land under the Land Ceiling Laws. The outmigration of the educated peasants and small land owners along with the agricultural development of the zone created more demand for farm labour. This has been met with by the Scheduled
Caste who were becoming jobless due to the decaying of their traditional occupations. They took to the work of agricultural labourers in great numbers leading to a moderate growth of population.

In short, a high literacy rate, out-migration of educated agriculturists and a moderate growth of population are the salient features making it a sub-type in the category of moderate demographic changes.

The Central and Southern Upland Zone comprises mainly Rajpura Tehsil (Patiala District) with one township and 174 villages. This is also a level fertile agricultural tract but differs from the north-western upland plain in some of the characteristics of its population. The area under cultivation is considerably high - 80 per cent and above but the socio-economic development of the region started after Independence as this was an area neglected by the former princely rulers of Patiala and Nabha. The reclamation of cultivable wasteland, development of tube-well irrigation and adoption of new techniques in farming have played an important role in the demographic and economic scene. There has also been immigration of cultivators who purchased surplus land. These factors led to a moderate growth rate in this tract - the growth being more marked in the decade of 1951-61.
Literacy in this zone has been a post-independence phenomenon due to the neglect in this field by the princely rulers. Its progress has been moderate - more effective for the males.

Thus during 1951-71, the two zones of this sub-region have undergone changes of a moderate degree in the various attributes of population.

To conclude, the Inter-State Chandigarh Region has undergone great socio-economic transformation during the span of 1951-71. This is attributed to the creation of the new capital of Chandigarh; implementation of the Five Year Plans and other government sponsored programmes which have changed the personality of the Region. Rapid demographic changes have been experienced, particularly in and around Chandigarh and along the Chandigarh-Kalka road. On the other hand, demographic changes in the hilly region of Kalka and Naraingarh Tehsils and the lower dissected plain were slow. The areas of moderate changes were the north-western, central and southern upland plain.