CHAPTER - 1

APPRaisal OF THE PROBLEM

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Geography has been studied since ancient time but study of Urban Geography has started recently. Upto 1940 stress was not given on Urban Geography but after World War II, Human Geography has developed and according to it, Urban Geography has also developed.

An exceptional place is occupied by the settlement geography in the geographical hierarchy of human phenomenon. It is an important branch of human geography and correlates one of the most essential necessities of human being with environment. The major part of the subject is concerned with urban geography for towns and cities after the most striking man made features on the earth’s surface. In the under developed countries of the world, the problem of human settlements has emerged on one of the most challenging issues. The geographic study of settlement in India is quite recent. Urbanization in India is rapidly increasing after independence. It brings in its wake vast social, economic and cultural imbalance between the rural and urban areas supported by them.
Since urbanization is associated with socio-economic transformation, it has assumed considerable significance in an underdeveloped country like India.¹

To focus the phenomenon of urbanization on the ecological and demographic aspects of human spatial distribution, is to pursue sharply define and highly important ramified interest.²

According to Griffith Taylor, Urban Geography includes site, evolution pattern and classification of towns.³ Similarly, Herold Mayer states that, Urban Geography is concerned with interpreting the pattern of relationship that exists within the Urban areas and non-urban areas on the other hand.⁴

Several Indian Geographers too have added substantially to the various fields of Urban Geography. But few changes are observed in the development of it. Since last 50 years cities have been expanded vigorously. Naturally greater emphasis has been laid on the study of individual urban centres. It is much necessary to study cities, because of different problems, such as increasing population, problem of shelter, unemployment, transport, water supply, pollution etc.

In ancient times, eminent geographers have studied urban geography e.g. Strabo have stressed on situation of cities, in his book “Geography.” In 1973, William Fredrick Mortin has described cities in Great Britain in his book “New Systems in Geography”. In the early 20th Century R. E. Dickinson (1947) studied different cities in detail. Blasher in 1901 and Kurt Haigsart in 1907 made an important writing on cities. They describe origin of cities and effect of different natural factors on their development in their
publications. In 1924 Orusha defined Urban Geography and show that it is separate branch of geography. Krobi (1938) tried to prove structure of Urban Geography.

Different problem of cities will be solved through proper planing by studying each problem thoroughly and considering other affecting factors. Comparative studies aiming at deriving generalization with regard to various aspects of towns are still rare. They lack in theoretical considerations and they have also failed to examine the “Chain-effect” of urban centres in a region. So the study of expanding cities has got more importance of Urban Geography.

Industrialization and civilization runs parallel to each other. The present lay industrial discipline is the offspring of industrialized India. The threat of rapid urbanization and industrialization has given rise to the manifold environmental pollution problems. Urbanization and rapid population growth in the city has created tremendous problem which is the root of all environmental crisis. The rural-urban migration, development of industries gave rise to a turmoil condition in social, political and economic life of Kolhapur. Due to increasing population, the land under cultivation is reduced. And city is becoming more crowded, which affects city transportation and it is main cause of air pollution. It also affects traffic adversely. Slums are developing due to migration of people. A slum is thickly populated, squalid part of a city, inhabited by the poorest or lowest class of the people. The consequences of the rapid growth of urbanization have resulted in the development of slums in Kolhapur. The slums also deteriorate the surrounding environment of city. The slums are dirty, there is no proper drainage system. It invites many diseases. Population
growth is responsible for problem of residence. Therefore people try to find out residence in surrounding villages and it causes formation of suburbs due to which land under cultivation has been decreased. At the same time deforestation is resulted in to ecological imbalance.

Increasing population has also affected the water supply of the city. Per capita water supply is also decreasing. Polluted water from industries and sewage mix with drinking water and created health problems.

Taking into consideration the above aspects, here an attempt has been made to study the Urban Geography of Kolhapur City and its environmental problems.

1.2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The problems of Urban centres in India have emerged as one of the most challenging issues before last 50 years. A variety of approaches has been observed in the works brought out on urban development, the research work under various titles such as morphology of township, origin and evolution of planning areas of city, umlands of city, growth of city, hierarchy of shopping centre, functional morphology has been worked out by government agencies as well as on individual levels.

R. L. Singh published his pioneer work on Banaras: A Study In Urban Geography (1955), and following his pattern and approach, a number of scholars wrote Doctoral dissertations and research papers on the Urban Geography of individual towns and

several maps, deals with the origin, growth functional structure and the service area of the place. Mulik, (1989) has studied the Urbanization of South Maharashtra plateau. Sita, (1972-73) highlights the low level of Urbanization in South Konkan Which needs adequate industrial incentive to raise its level of Urbanization.10

Above all Geographers have studied various aspects of different cities in urban geography. Taking into consideration the above studies, an attempt has been made to study the KOLHAPUR CITY in urban geography. The studies of demographic characteristics, occupational structure, study of different suburb and slums, problems and planning for future development of city have been considered.

1.3 STUDY REGION

Kolhapur is old and one of the important centre in the urban scenario of Maharashtra. The city Kolhapur is situated on right bank of Panchaganga River, on the Poona Bengalore National Highway No. 4th, and located on 16° 42’ N. Latitude and 74° 14’E. Longitude.11 The total population of Kolhapur City is 4,06,370 persons according to 1991 census12 and density of population is 6082 persons per sq. km. It covers an area about 66.82 sq. km. having height from sea level about 650 m.

Kolhapur city has five wards i.e. A, B, C, D and E. According to 1991 census, the population of above wards is 83623, 64416, 35642, 37628 and 185061 persons 13 respectively. As per 1991 census, Kolhapur City ranks eighth14 in the cities of Maharashtra. It is growing rapidly as industrial nuclei, commercial complex,
educational centre and focal point of economic, cultural, social and administrative activities of southern Maharashtra region.

1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the present study of Kolhapur city are as follow:

1. To study the demographic characteristics of Kolhapur city.
2. To study the economic structure of the Kolhapur city.
3. To study the suburbs of Kolhapur city.
4. To study the problems of Kolhapur city.
5. To study the slums of Kolhapur city.
6. To study the city development and planning for future development.

1.5 DATA COLLECTION

The required data for the present study is collected from various sources such as:

1. District Census hand books of Kolhapur district, 1971 to 1991
2. Socio-economic abstract of Kolhapur district.
3. The District Gazetteer of Kolhapur district.
5. Various Grampanchayat offices record.
6. District Statistical Department.

Besides this, the data of suburbs and slums have been collected with help of questionnaire, fieldwork and telephone interview.
1.6 METHODOLOGY

In the present study, various methods have been used to the study of population characteristics of the study region. The collected data have been presented with help of various tables, diagrams and maps. The Gibb's method is applied for the population growth rate and population projection. To study the suburbs and slum areas of the city, the fieldwork method have been used with help of questionnaires. Finally the personal observations and fieldwork method have been used to study the problem of Kolhapur City.

1.7 DESIGN OF RESEARCH WORK

The entire work of research is presented in eight chapters.

The first chapter seeks to present the review of the relevant literature, source of data, methodology, aims and objectives of the present work.

The second chapter makes an appraisal of geographical setting of the region.

The third chapter includes demographic characteristics i.e. decadal growth rate of population, density, sex ratio, ward wise population and occupational structure of the Kolhapur city.
Locations, growth, population characteristics of different suburbs have been studied in fourth chapter.

Chapter fifth covers different problems i.e. residence, transportation, water supply, health of Kolhapur city.

The sixth chapter deals with demographic characteristic, location, distribution and occupational structure of slums of the Kolhapur City.

City development and planning for future development have been studied in seventh chapter.

The last chapter i.e. eighth chapter includes concluding remarks.
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