



A Study of Demographic Characteristics of Ratnagiri District: Geographical Analysis

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Abstract:

Population geography is the one of the branches of human geography. Demography means the study of population. Population Geography examines human activities that impact on natural resources and resulting landscapes with emphasis on population size, distribution, density, growth rate and migration. Demography is the statistical analysis of parameters of population changes, namely, fertility; mortality and morbidity; migration; and estimates to future levels of these parameters. Demography focuses on the determinants of age-sex structure and composition by examining how socio-economic, cultural and political factors determine population growth rate, movements and other characteristics of population such as levels of income, education and marriage, among others. There are five districts of Konkan region. Ratnagiri District, located in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, India, is known for its rich natural beauty and cultural heritage. The district's demographic characteristics are shaped by its geographical location, economic activities, and social structures. This study aims to conduct a geographical analysis of the demographic characteristics of Ratnagiri District, including population density, age structure, sex ratio, literacy rate, and migration patterns. Our analysis reveals significant spatial variations in demographic characteristics across different regions of the district, with implications for local development and planning. The results show that Ratnagiri district has a relatively high population density, with a sex ratio favoring females. The literacy rate is moderate, with a significant difference between rural and urban areas. The population growth rate is moderate, with a declining trend in the last decade. The study also identifies the geographical distribution of demographic variables and highlights the role of geographical factors such as coastline, mountains, and rivers in shaping the demographic characteristics of the region. The study concludes that geographical analysis is essential to understand the demographic characteristics of a region and inform policy decisions.

Keywords: *Demography, Konkan, Sex-Ratio, Demographic Characteristics, Population*

Introduction:

Demography is the scientific study of human populations, focusing on the size, composition, and distribution of

populations, as well as their growth, decline, and changes over time. In the context of population geography, demography plays a crucial role in

understanding the spatial distribution of populations, their relationships with the environment, and the impact of demographic changes on the social and economic fabric of society. Demography means the study of population. Demography is the statistical analysis of parameters of population changes, namely, fertility; mortality and morbidity; migration; and estimates to future levels of these parameters. Demography focuses on the determinants of age-sex structure and composition by examining how socio-economic, cultural and political factors determine population growth rate, movements and other characteristics of population such as levels of income, education and marriage, among others. There are five districts of Konkan region. Ratnagiri is one of the important districts in Konkan because of their socio-economic, historical and political significance. Tourism attraction of Ratnagiri is another parameter for the economic development of Ratnagiri district. Ratnagiri District, located in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, India, is known for its rich natural beauty and cultural heritage. The district's demographic characteristics are shaped by its geographical location, economic activities, and social structures. This study aims to conduct a geographical analysis of the demographic characteristics of Ratnagiri District, including population density, age structure, sex ratio, literacy

rate, and migration patterns. Our analysis reveals significant spatial variations in demographic characteristics across different regions of the district, with implications for local development and planning. There are two main types of human resources one qualitative population another numerical population. Numerical resources consist mainly of population growth and population distribution and qualitative people mainly include people's skills, knowledge, good health age group, literacy, sex ratio etc [9,12]. Geographically, these include the factors such as Sex ratio, Literacy, Population Density, Growth Rate etc. If a geographical region has a high literacy rate of population, it is considered a population is resources. The present paper focus on decadal changes in population, growth rate and sex ratio from the point of view of socio-economic development.

Objectives:

The objectives of a study of demographic characteristics of Ratnagiri District, with a focus on geographical analysis of the district.

1. To examine the decadal growth rate population of the study region.
2. To study the spatial distribution of demographic variables such as sex ratio of different tehsils of the district.

3. To examine the impact of geography on demographic characteristics

Research Methodology:

The present paper is based on secondary data; which is collected through the Census of India (2011) and primary data collected through a field survey. The percentage method is used for the understanding of demographic characteristics of the Ratnagiri district.

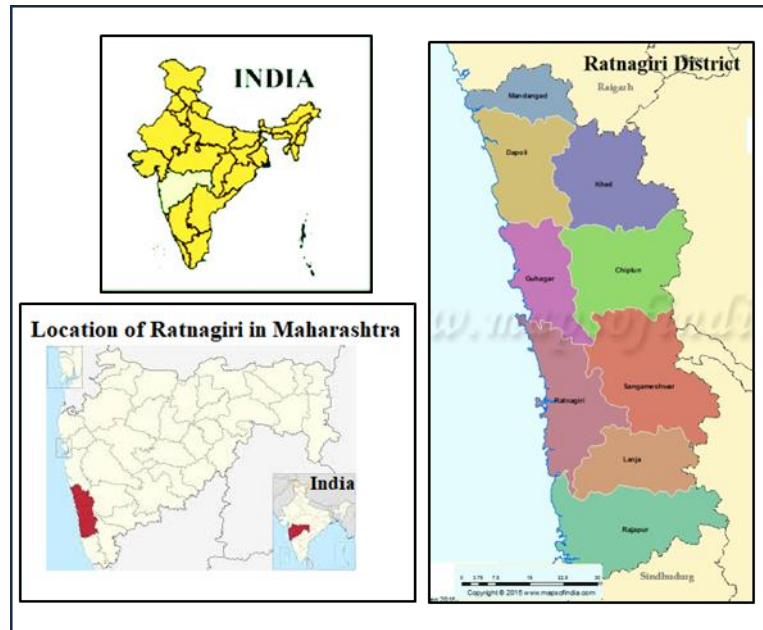
Study Region:

Ratnagiri district is one of the 36 districts of Maharashtra. It is located on the Konkan strip of the west coast of India. The geographical location of the district lies in between 16.30° north latitude and 73.53° east longitude. It's bounded by the Arabian Sea to the west, the Sahyadri hills to the east, the Raigad district to the north, and the Sindhudurg district to the south. The eastern part of the district is covered by basalt and has been heavily eroded by the high rainfall and undulating topography. Ratnagiri district is a coastal region located in the Konkan division of Maharashtra, India. The district is known for its rich natural resources, including its coastline, mountains, and rivers. Despite its natural beauty and economic significance, the district has been

experiencing rapid population growth and urbanization in recent years. This study aims to analyze the demographic characteristics of Ratnagiri district using geographical analysis.

The eastern part of the region mainly comprises of the Sahyadri Range and its sloping mountains adjoining the Konkan plain. On the western side is a hilly landscape. The topography of this region is highly uneven. In this area you will find extremely narrow riverine plains adjoining the coastline. About 85 % percent of the area comprises of hills. Due to its shallow nature the coastline is hardly used for navigation. As per the 2011 district census, total number of villages is 1537. At present there were 9 tehsils of the districts viz Mandangad, Khed, Dapoli, Guhagar, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Sangameshwar, Lanja, and Rajapur Tahsils. In 2011, Ratnagiri had population of 1,615,069 of which male and female were 761,121 and 853,948 respectively. In 2001 census, Ratnagiri had a population of 1,696,777 of which males were 794,498 and remaining 902,279 were females. Ratnagiri District population constituted 1.44 percent of total Maharashtra population. In 2001 census, this figure for Ratnagiri District was at 1.75 percent of Maharashtra population. Ratnagiri district has been covered by 8208 sq.km area.

Location of Ratnagiri District in Maharashtra



Demographic Characteristics:

Socio-economic development of any nation is depending on the size of the population and human resources which available in the region. Population Our analysis reveals significant spatial variations in demographic characteristics across different tehsils of Ratnagiri District. Demography is the study of a population, the total number of people or organisms in a given area. In order to study the characteristics of population such as decadal growth, density, age structure, sex ratio, density of population literacy rate etc. Therefore, in order to study population from the point of view of tourism, various factors such as population

characteristics, decadal changes in population growth, sex ratio.

Population Growth:

Population growth is an important factor in population studies as it measures the population growth in a geographical area. Population growth rate is the change in the number of individuals over a specific period of time. Population growth rate can be interpreted over any time period. Growth rate of population is depending on net birth rate, death rate and net migration. The difference between the birth and death rate is known as natural growth of population. The following table shows the decadal variation in population from 2001 to 2011.

Table 1: Decadal Variation in Population (2001-2011)

Decades	Population	Population Variation in (%)
1901	871,866	---
1911	893,944	2.53
1921	856,032	-4.24
1931	964,558	12.68
1941	1,022,816	6.04
1951	1,076,080	5.21
1961	1,146,243	6.52
1971	1,278,742	11.56
1981	1,379,655	7.89
1991	1,544,057	11.92
2001	1,696,777	9.89
2011	1,615,069	-4.82

Source: Population Census, 2011

Table 1 reveals that the percentage decadal variation during 2001–2011 is registered a negative 4.8 percent for the total District, because the most of the Konkani population was migrated towards Mumbai for the employment.

Decadal Change in Population:

The Table-2 gives the percentage decadal variation for 2001-2011 with rural-urban areas by district and tahsil level. The percentages of urban population to total population for 2001-2011.

Table 2: Decadal change in population of Tahsils by residence, 2001-2011

Tehsils	2001			2011			Percentage decadal Variation 2001-2011			Percentage Urban Pop.	
	Total Pop	Rural	Urban	Total Pop	Rural	Urban	Total Pop	Rural	Urban	2001	2011
Mandangad	70593	70593	0	62123	62123	0	-12	-12	0	0	0
Dapoli	193430	177567	15863	178340	144084	34256	-7.8	-18.9	116	8.2	19.2
Khed	194515	180702	13813	181615	164723	16893	-6.6	-8.8	22.3	7.1	9.3
Chiplun	281081	224150	56931	279122	211586	67536	-0.7	-5.6	18.6	20.3	24.2
Guhaghar	142259	139052	3207	123209	121588	1621	-13.4	-12.6	-49.5	2.3	1.3
Ratnagiri	302261	222641	79620	319449	212850	106599	5.7	-4.4	33.9	26.3	33.4
Sangameshwar	214819	214819	0	198343	185654	12689	-7.7	-13.6	0	0	6.4
Lanja	113163	100877	12276	106986	92609	14377	-5.5	-8.2	17.1	10.8	13.4
Rajapur	184666	174167	10499	165882	156129	9753	-10.2	-10.4	-7.1	5.7	5.9
Ratnagiri Total	1696777	1504568	192209	1615069	1351346	263723	-4.8	-10.2	37.2	11.3	16.3

Source: District Census Handbook, Ratnagiri, 2011

Table 2 shows that, the percentage decadal variation during 2001–2011 is registered a -4.8 percent for total District, whereas it is negative 10.2 (minus) percent for rural and 37.2 percent for urban. All Tahsils have urban areas except Mandangad Tahsil. The rural areas of all Tahsils have recorded negative growth rates while in urban areas Guhaghar and Rajapur Tahsils recorded negative growth rates. The proportion of urban population to total population in Ratnagiri District has increased to 16.3 percent in Census 2011 as compared to 11.3 in Census 2001. Among 9 Tahsils of the District, Ratnagiri Tahsil (319,449) is the most populous and Mandangad Tahsil (62,123) the least. The highest urban growth rate of 115.9 percent is registered in Dapoli Tahsil, while Guhaghar Tahsil has recorded a negative growth rate of - 49.5 percent.

Sex Ratio:

Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population. This information is an important social indicator to measure the extent of equality between males and females in a society at a given time. The sex ratio in the country has always remained unfavorable to females. Sex composition of a population which is one of the basic demographic characteristics is of vital important for demographic analysis. Changes in sex composition mostly reflect the changes in the socio-economic and cultural patterns of a society. The sex ratio defined as the number of males per 1000 females in the population is an important social indicator to measure the degree of equity between males and females in a society at a given point of time.

Table 3: Sex ratio of the district, 1901-2011

Decades	Total	Rural	Urban
1901	1119	1126	991
1911	1164	1171	1007
1921	1187	1195	992
1931	1129	1135	966
1941	1158	1168	977
1951	1239	1256	1027
1961	1264	1292	993
1971	1263	1294	992
1981	1258	1289	979
1991	1205	1230	981
2001	1136	1163	944
2011	1122	1144	1015

Source: District Census Handbook, Ratnagiri, 2011

2011 Census, recorded a sex ratio of 1122 females per 1000 males in the district. This is higher compared to the State average (929). The sex ratio in the district has remained higher than that of State since 1901. As regards total areas, the sex ratio at the State level declined by 49 points and at district level it increased by 3 points during the last 110 years. Similarly, the sex ratio for the rural areas for State decreased by 51 points and for the district it is increased by 18 points. For the urban areas, at State level, the sex ratio increased by 41 points and for the district it has increased by 24 points during the above periods of 1901–2011.

Conclusion:

This study provides a geographical analysis of the demographic characteristics of Ratnagiri District, revealing significant spatial variations decadal changes in population, sex ratio. Our findings have important implications for local development and planning initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life for residents in the district. The study concludes that geographical analysis is essential to understand the demographic characteristics of a region and inform policy decisions. The study highlights the

importance of considering geographical factors such as coastline, mountains, and rivers when analyzing demographic variables. The sex ratio in the district is 1,034 females per 1,000 males, which is higher than the state average of 929 females per 1,000 males. The population growth rate in the district is moderate, with a growth rate of 1.3% per annum over the last decade. This growth rate is lower than the state average of 1.6% per annum.

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