

Growth of Urban Population in Malwa (Punjab)

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Abstract: This study deals with the spatial analysis of growth of urban population. Malwa region has been taken as a case study. During 1991-2001, the urban growth has been shown in Malwa region of Punjab. The large number of new towns has emerged in this region during 1991-2001 periods. Urban growth of Malwa region as well as distribution of urban centres is closely related to accessibility and modality factors. The large urban centres are located along major arteries. International border with an unfriendly neighbour hinders urban growth. It indicates that secondary activities have positive correlation with urban growth. More than 90% of urban population of Malwa region lives in large and medium towns of Punjab. More than 50% lives in large towns. Malwa region is agriculturally very prosperous area. So Mandi towns are well distributed throughout the region.

Keywords: Growth, Urban, Population, Development.

I. INTRODUCTION

The distribution of urban population and its growth reflect the economic structure of population as well as economic growth of the region. The urban centers have different socio economic value systems, degree of socio-economic awakening than the rural areas. Although Urbanisation is an inescapable process and is related to the economic growth of the region but regional imbalances in urbanization creates problems for Planners so urban growth need to be channelized in planned manner and desired direction. So the study of growth and distribution of urban population is necessary. There is no universally accepted definition of an urban area. Each country decides its own criteria for treating a place as rural or urban on the basis of the characteristics of that area. As per Indian census definition, the urban places are: (a) All places with a municipality corporation or cantonment or notified town area. (b) All other places which satisfy the following criteria. (i) Minimum population 5000. (ii) At least 75 percent of the male working population engaged in non agriculture activities. (iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons/sq. km.

The study deals with the spatial analysis of growth of urban population in Malwa region during 1991-2001, the study of urban population growth is the most sensitive index of dynamism of the region. The spatial pattern of urban population growth is an index of prosperity and economic development of an area. Urban growth has close correlation with growth of secondary sector and tertiary sector. Recently, Malwa region has experienced rapid urbanization and spatial pattern of this urbanization is important aspect of study. Spatial variations of tackled at an early stage help to solve various regional problems of development. Spatial variations of not tackled at proper time may result in urban distortions at regional level, local level as well as trans local level. The main objective of the present study are (a) To study the spatial pattern of urbanization in Malwa region. (b) To evaluate the factors responsible for spatial variation in urbanization and urban growth. (c) To suggest measures for balanced urban growth in the Malwa region.

II. THE STUDY AREA

Malwa is situated between river Satluj in the north and Ghaggar in the south. Shiwalik hills in the east and Pakistan to its west. Doaba and Majha lies on its north. Himachal Pradesh and hararyana border on the east, south east and south. In the south west Rajasthan touches Malwa region. Malwa extends from 29° 30' to 31° 9' N latitude and from 73°55' to 76°35' E longitude. In 2001 out of 17 districts of Punjab, Malwa alone has districts namely Roopnagar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Fatehgarh sahib, Sangrur, Bathinda, Mansa, Moga, Faridkot, Muktsar and Firozpur. Now Mohali has been carved out a new district of Punjab thus Malwa region has 12 districts. The international boundary is in the west of Malwa region which effect the urban population. We find less urban towns in west.



Fig. 1: Location of the study area

III. METHODOLOGY

In order to understand the spatial pattern of urban population growth in Malwa region. The town is the unit of study. The census data of 1991 and 2001 has been used for this study. The size of urban population have been shown by proportional circles. Proportional circles have been drawn to show size of urban centres. Six town classes have been grouped in two three categories i.e. large, medium, and small towns. Proportional circles are given different colors in order to differentiate the towns with low medium and high growth rate. Choropleth method is used to show district wise population growth. Bar Diagram are drawn to show the percentage of urban population and number of towns in different size classes of towns.

IV. DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN CENTERS

In 2001 urban population in Malwa region was 4952363 where as Punjab's total population was 8245566. Malwa's urban population was 60.1% of Punjab's total population. In general the western districts of Malwa rank lower in urban population as compared to eastern districts. The reason is the late adoption of new technology in agriculture pursuits. The agriculture remained backward due to semi arid climatic conditions. Sandy soils along with scarcity of rainfall had adverse effect on agriculture. So marker towns developed later than the other parts of the region. More distance from Chandigarh and distance from the G.T road have also hindered the development of industry in this part.

Out of 157 towns of Punjab 91 are in Malwa region alone. The towns are well distributed in the region because of absence of any significant physical hindrance. Moreover Malwa region of Punjab is significant in agriculture so market towns are well distributed throughout the region. The adverse climate presence of sand dunes and economic backwardness of western part may have hindered emergence of large urban centers in this part in the past. The distribution of towns has close association with the road and rail linkages in the region. Most of the medium and large urban centers are situated on major arteries i.e national highways and railway lines. Main arteries along which significant number of urban centers are developed G.T road, Chandigarh-Abohar highway, Abhoar-Ferozpur road, Sangrur-Ludhiana road. Only metropolis of the region is located along G.T road and Delhi-Amritsar railway line. Accessibility and nodality are major factors in distribution of urban centers in this region. The capital of Punjab i.e. Chnadigarh is another factors which seem to have affected distribution of urban centres. Some towns are found in close proximity to Chandigarh like Roopnagar, Kurali, Kharar, Mohali, Zirkpur and Derabassi.

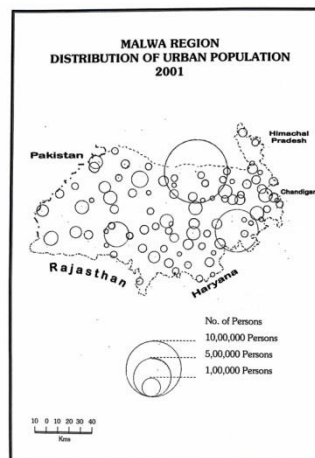


Fig.2: Distribution of urban population

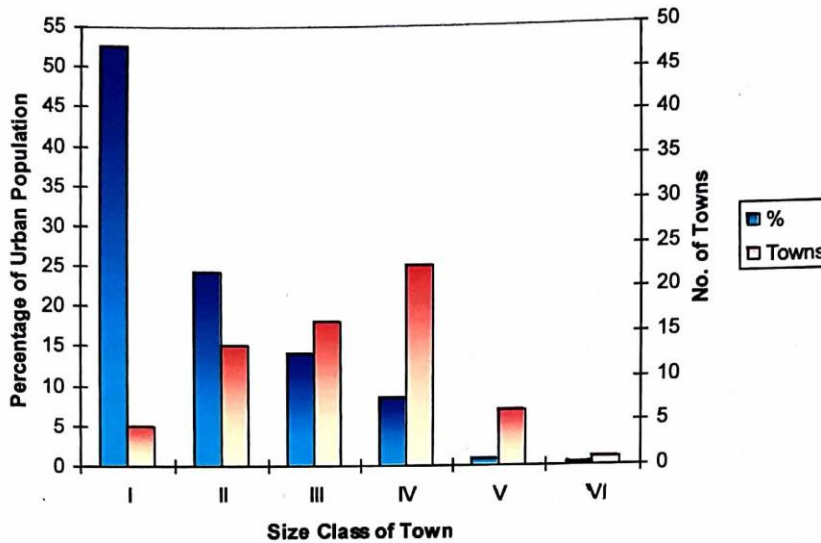
To conclude towns are well distributed in Malwa region. But accessibility of roads and railways have played a major role in concentration of towns. The location of Chandigarh in the east of region also bearing upon the distribution of urban population.

Growth of urban center

Malwa from 1991 to 2001 increased by 1316926 this change called absolute growth. The number of towns in Malwa region has increased 71 in 1991 to 2001. This increase signifies diversification in economy of the region. In 1991 the large towns (more than 1 lakh population) were only 5 but in 2001, there have increased to 8. It shows that large sized towns are growing at a rapid pace. The large sized towns share in region’s urban population was 52.61% in 1991 which increased to

53.65% in 2001. It shows that there is high concentration of urban population at few places. The size classes of towns have been given below: Growth of urban centers depends upon a number of physical, economic and administrative factors. Nodality plays a very significant role in growth of urban centers. The growth of industries in any urban center boosts the growth of that town. Growth of urban centers can also create distortion in urban development of any area. So pattern of growth of urban centers in the whole region should be channelized at required level distortion in growth of urban centers can give rise to primacy. The total urban population of Malwa in 1991 was 3635437 and it becomes 4952363 in 2001. So the population of

**MALWA REGION
 SHARE OF URBAN POPULATION AND NUMBER OF
 TOWNS BY SIZE CLASS - 1991**



MALWA REGION SHARE OF URBAN POPULATION AND NUMBER OF TOWNS BY SIZE CLASS -2001

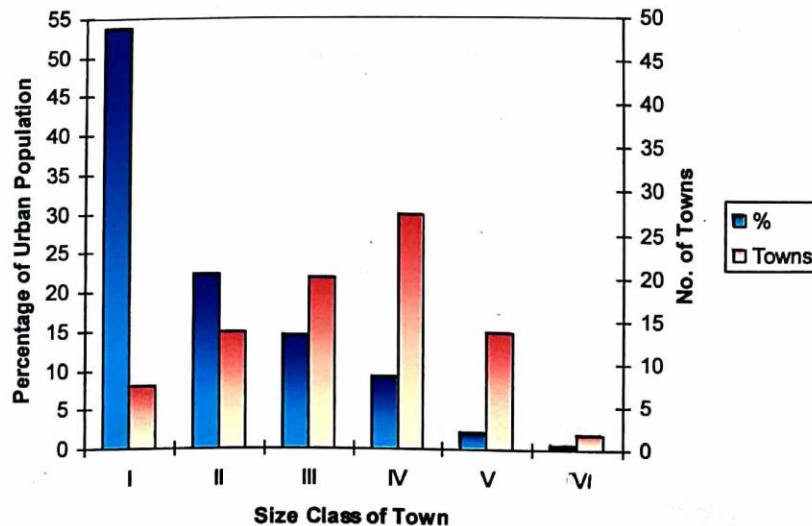


Fig. 3: Percentage of urban Population

The number of medium sized towns (20000 to 99999persons) has increased from 33 in 1991 to 37 in 2001. There accommodated 38.37% urban population of the region in 1991 and 36.84% in 2001. It shows that about 90% of Malwa urban population is living in large and medium sized towns. The small towns (less than 20000 persons) accommodated only 10% of urban population of Malwa as per 1991 and 2001 census. The number of small towns in 1991 was 33 which increased to 47 in 2001. The increase in number of small towns in 2001 indicates rapid change in economy of the region. During 1991-2001, 21 towns have been added in this category. This shows a rapid trend towards urbanization in near future.

As the present study is concerned with the urban growth of Malwa we have studied the factors which are responsible for positive growth and negative growth. Accordingly all the urban centers of population divided into 3 categories.

1. Growth of urban centers having population more than 100,000

According to 2001 census there were eight urban centres in this category i.e. Ludhiana, Patiala, Bathinda, Moga, Abohar, Mohali, Malerkotla and Khanna as shown below:

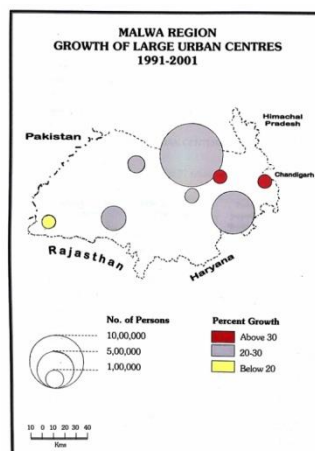


Fig.4:Growth of urban centres

On the basis of percentage growth has been divided into three categories.

(i) Urban centres having high growth (above 30%)

Mohali and Khanna experienced very fast growth during 1991-2001 periods. Mohali is exceptionally fast growth is due to its location near Chandigarh. The various new industries, business activities etc. have got established in Mohali which has attracted immigrants in this city.

Khanna is located along G.T road and Delhi-Amritsar railway line. It is also the largest grain market of India. Accessibility is the main reason for fast growth of this city.

(ii) Urban centres having medium growth (20-30%)

During 1991-2001, Ludhiana, Patiala, Bathinda, Malerkotla and Moga experienced medium growth. Ludhiana enjoys central location and is the only metropolis of this region. Bathinda is largest urban centre in south western part of Punjab and is upcoming industrial centre.

(iii) urban centres having slow growth (below 20%)

Abohar has experienced slow growth rate during 1991-2001. The reason can be its location near international border or location in one corner of the region.

Ludhiana, Patiala, Bathinda, Malerkotla and Moga experienced moderate growth (20-30%) during 1991-2001. Ludhiana enjoys central location and is the only metropolis of this region. Bathinda is the largest urban centre in south western part of Punjab and upcoming industrial centre. Abohar has experienced slow growth rate during 1991-2001. The reason can be its location near international border or location in one corner of the region.

2. Growth of medium urban centers

Accordingly 2001 census there were 37 urban centres lies in this category. On the basis of percentage growth has been divided into three categories

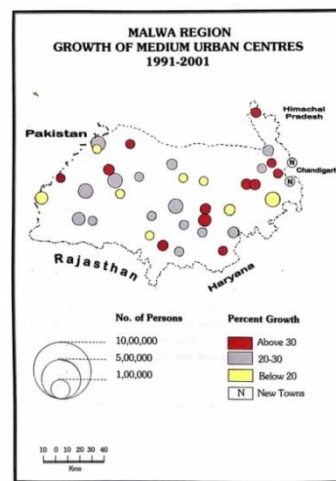


Fig.5:Growth of urban centres

(i) Urban centres having high growth(above 30%)

The high growth of urban centers have very specific spatial pattern. Towns in close proximity of Chandigarh like Kharar, Kurali have experienced high growth rate. Other towns with high growth rate are Nangal township Jalalabad, Patran, Gobindgarh, Sangrur, Dhuri and Zira. Development of industries seems to be the main reason of their fast growth.

(ii) Urban centres having medium growth (20-30%)

Medium growth was recorded by 16 towns namely Longowal, Firozpur, Barnala, Muktsar, Malout, Jagraon, Sunam, Roopnagar, Samana, Rampuraphul, Giddarbaha, Budhlada, Morinda, Bagha purana. Kotakpura, Roopnagar. The Kotakpura , Roopnagar, Morinda have highest growth rate in this category. Roopnagar ranks 5th urban population and Morinda is also town of Roopnagar district. Bagha Purana , Malout, Giddarbaha are located in western part of Malwa . International border hinders the urban growth. Longowal, Sunam, Rampuraphul are towns of Sangrur district. Moderate development of industries and agricultural prosperity are main causes of their moderate growth.

(iii) Urban centres having low growth (less than 20%)

Low growth has been recorded by 8 town namely Rajpura, Fazilka, Nabha, Firozpur cantt. Jaito, Maur, Ahmedgarh and Raikot. These urban centers are mostly located in western part of Malwa region. The lack of diversification and proximity to international border are responsible for their slow growth.

3. Growth of urban centers having population less than 20,000

According to 2001 census there were 46 urban centers in this category. The urban centers which have less than 20000 population are Raman, Lehragaga, Doraha, Bhawanigarh, Tapa, Bassi Pathana, Dhnaula, Machiwara, Sanuar, Bhadur, Sardulgarh, Dera Bassi, Dharmkot, Bhikhi, Banur, Moonak, Baretta, Mulanpur Dakha, Talwandi bhai, Guru har sahai, Anadpur sahib, Bhucho mandi, Dirba, Gonyiana, Amlloh, Makhu, Khanouri, Nahan, Handaya, Cheema, Bhankrpur, Khamano, Ghugga, Rurki kasba, Bariwala, Payal, Maloud, Akalgarh, Badni kalan, Mulapur, Garib das, Bhabat, Ghanour, Sangat, Bhisiana, Sekhpura. On the basis of percentage growth has been divided into three categories.

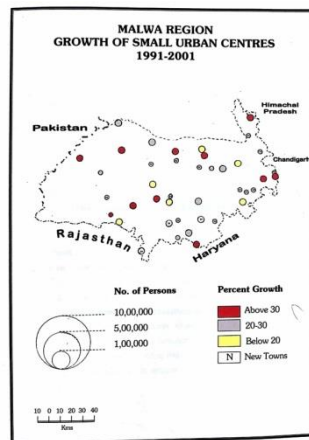


Fig.6:Growth of urban centres

(i)Urban centres having growth (above 30%)

Doraha, Tapa, Machiwara, Dera bassi, Moonak, Mulanpur, Rakhra, Talwandi bhai, Guruhar sahai, Anadpur sahib, Bucho Mandi, Khamano urban centres are included in this category. There are some new towns. Doraha, Machiwara, Mulanpur Dakha lies in Ludhiana district. The agriculture prosperity and industry development has boosted the urban growth of the towns.

(ii) Urban centers having medium growth(20-30%)

In this category Lehragaga, Bhawanigarh, Dharamkot, Baretta, Gonyiana, Amlloh, Payal are included. Lehragaga and bhwanigarh lies in Sangrur district which is industrial developed. Urban growth has positive correlation with network transportation.

(iii) Urban centres having low growth (less than 20%)

Raman, Bassi Pathana, Dhanula, Sanaur, Samrara, Bhaduar, Akalgarh are included in this category. Bassi Pathana and Sanaur has recorded minimum growth rate. Sahnawal, Sardulgarh, bhikhi, Dirba, Makhu, Khanori, Nahon. Handya, Cheema, Bhankrpur,

Khamano, Ghugga, Rurki Kasba, Bariwala, Maloud, Mulapur Garid das, Bhabat, Ghanour, Bhisiana, Sekhpura are new towns. New towns are absent near border which signifies lack of development activities in this part of region.

V. CONCLUSION

The present study which is based on the secondary data has brought following facts. The results are mainly derives from pattern emerging on the maps. The Malwa region has shown a rapid urban growth during 1991-2001. A large number of new towns have emerged in this region during 1991-2001 periods. It also indicates diversification in economy of the region. Urban growth of Malwa region as well as distribution of urban centers is closely related to the accessibility and modality factors. In general large urban centres are along major arteries. The urban centers located along major arteries are growing at a high growth rate. The industrial centers are growing at a rapid pace. It indicates that secondary activities have positive correlation with urban growth. International border with an unfriendly neighbor hinders urban growth in western Malwa region. No new town has developed near border during 1991-2001. Even growth rate of urban centers is slow in this part of the region. Malwa region is agriculturally very prosperous area. So Mandi towns are well distributed throughout the region. More than 90% of urban population of Malwa region lives in large and medium towns of Punjab. More than 50% of urban population lives in large towns.

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