



A STUDY OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS IN WESTERN SATPURA REGION (INDIA)

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Abstract

Population Geography is a branch of human geography, that is focused on the scientific study of the people, their spatial distributions and density. Demography, a scientific study of human population is related to various subjects. In its broader sense it is known as population studies that are multidisciplinary in its nature. Demographic characteristics of a population expressed statistically, such as age groups, sex ratio, education level, income level, marital status, occupation, religion, birth rate, death rate, average size of a family, average age at marriage. The secondary data used for this investigation has collected from census hand books of Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Khargone and Barwani districts of the year 2001. The objectives of the present study is to describe the demographic structure such as an age and sex structure, literacy, occupational structure, decadal growth rate in Western Satpura Region. The study area is characterized by high ST population, high sex ratio and low literacy. In this region only 35.8% people of the total population are literate.

Key Words: *age groups, sex ratio, Literacy, marital status, occupation, birth rate, death rate, size of a family, age at marriage.*

Introduction:

Population Geography is a branch of human geography, that is focused on the scientific study of the people, their spatial distributions and density. To study these factors, population geographers examine the increase and decrease in population. People's movements overtime, general settlement patterns and other subjects such as occupation and how people from the geographical character of a place. Population geography is closely related to demography (the study of population statistics and trends)

The word 'Demography', was originated from greek word in which 'demos' refers to people and 'graphein' to description. The term 'demography' was first coined by Achill Guillard, in 1855 but the real start of population studies was made from John Graunt's "Natural and political observation upon the Bills of Mortality" Demography, a scientific study of human population is related to various subjects. In its broader sense it is known as population studies that is multidisciplinary in its nature..

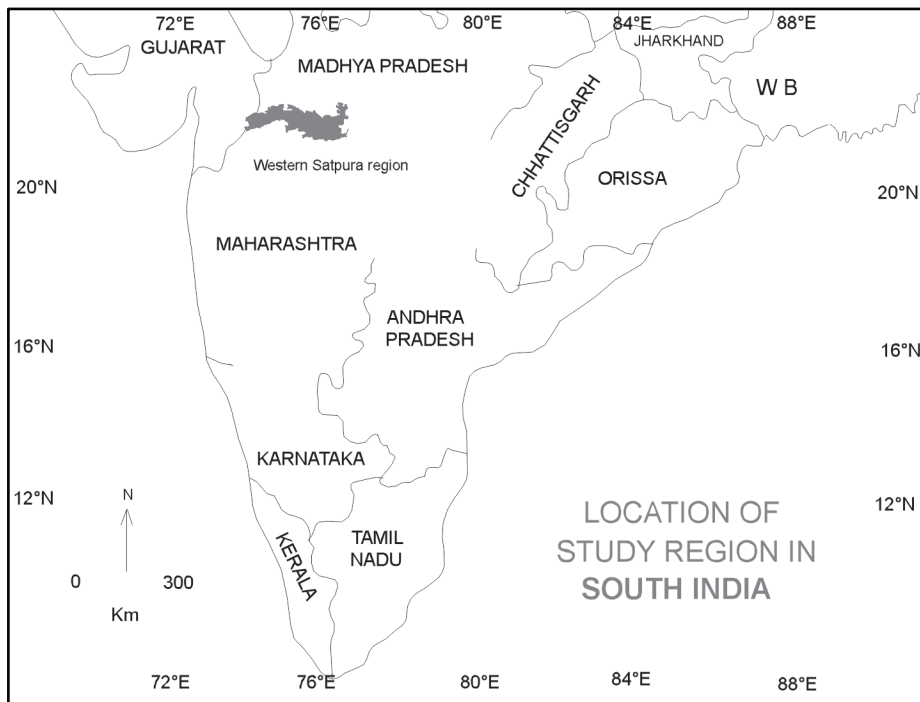
The quantity and quality of the people depends upon the demographic characteristics such as age, sex, nationality, religion, marital status, family composition, literacy, employment status, occupation and income etc. All these characteristics are dynamic in nature. This paper is devoted mainly to a discussion of the demographic characteristics with reference to biological attributes, like age and sex structure and such as population growth, literacy, occupational structure etc. along with the study of demographic processes.

Demarcation of the region under study:

The Western Satpura Region stretches from the Barhanpur-Khandwa gap in the east to the eastern boundary of Gujarat in the west. It is bounded by the Narmada valley in the north and Tapi valley in the south. This mountainous region is spread along the border of the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. It comprises the area of Nandurbar, Dhule and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra, Badwani and Khargaon districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Physiographically, it is a complex part which is characterized by the alternate arrangement of ridges and valleys from south to north. The study region lies between 21° 16' N and 22° 5' N latitudes and 73° 45' E and 76° 10' E longitudes. The part of Western Satpura, having an altitude more than 300

meters has been taken into consideration for the present investigation. The total area of the region is about 5044 sq. km. and according to 2001 census, total population of this region was 12,38,378. Out of the total population more than 80% was tribal.



Objectives:

The main objective of this study is to examine the dynamics in demographic characteristics of the Western Satpura Region.

1. To study distribution and growth of population.
2. To study Tehsil-wise structure of population.
3. To study Tehsil-wise density and characteristics of population.
4. To study the future trend of population.
5. To suggest different remedial measures to solve population problem.

Hypothesis:

The present study proceeds to examine the following hypothesis

1. Demographic aspects distribution, density, growth, literacy, sex ratio, etc. are spatio-temporally varying and determine by various physical, social, and economic factors.

Research Methodology :

1. Collected secondary data has processed, tabulated and interpreted with the help of charts, diagrams and maps.
2. Tehsils has selected as a basic unit of investigation.
3. The various statistical techniques are used for the calculations.

The Western Satpura Region is one of the distinctive geographical regions respect of physiography and demography. According to the census2001, total population of the study region was 12,38,378 out of which 6,23,786 were males and 6,14,592 were females. The general sex ratio for the

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region as a whole was 985. The proportion of scheduled tribe population to the total population was 84.4%. Out of the total main workers more than 90% were engaged in primary occupations. The proportion of literates to the total population was 35.81%.

Density Of Population:

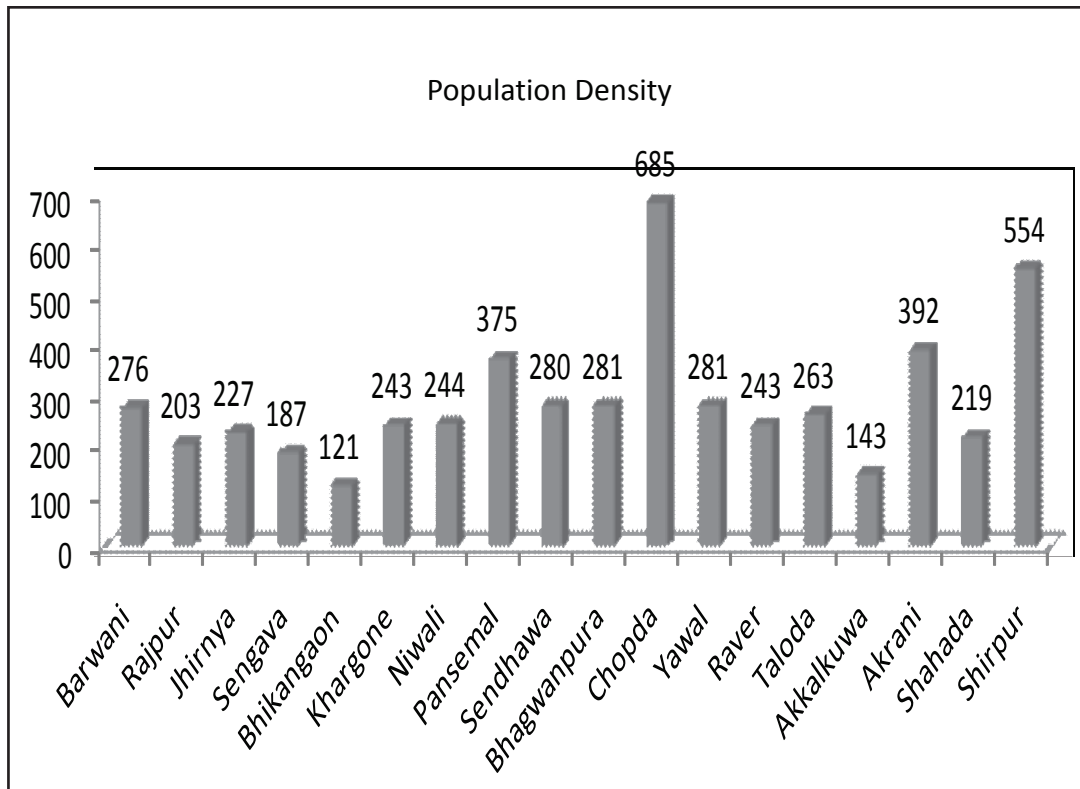
According to the census of 2001, the average density of population was 246 persons per sq. km. within the study region.

Table No. 1 : Western Satpura Region: Density of Population - 2001

Sr. No.	Tehsils	Population Density
1	Barwani	276
2	Rajpur	203
3	Jhirnya	227
4	Sengava	187
5	Bhikangaon	121
6	Khargone	243
7	Niwali	244
8	Pansemal	375
9	Sendhawa	280
10	Bhagwanpura	281
11	Chopda	685
12	Yawal	281
13	Raver	243
14	Taloda	263
15	Akkalkuwa	143
16	Akrani	392
17	Shahada	219
18	Shirpur	554
	Region	246

Source: District Census Handbooks of Khargone, Barwani, Jalgaon, Dhule and Nadurbar districts, 2001

The density varies from 121 to 685 persons per sq.km.. This reveals that the population is very unevenly distributed all over the region. A reveals that in the Western mountainous region the population density is less than 200 persons per sq.km.. Similarly in the northeast and northern parts, a belt running from Barwani tehsil to Jhirnya tehsil through Pansemal, Sendhawa and Bhagwanpura, the population density is ranging from 200 to 250 persons per sq.km.. In the extreme northern part comprising the area of Akrani tehsil in the west and Shirpur, Chopda tehsils in the south have higher population density of more than 250 persons per sq.km.



Decadal Increase In Population:

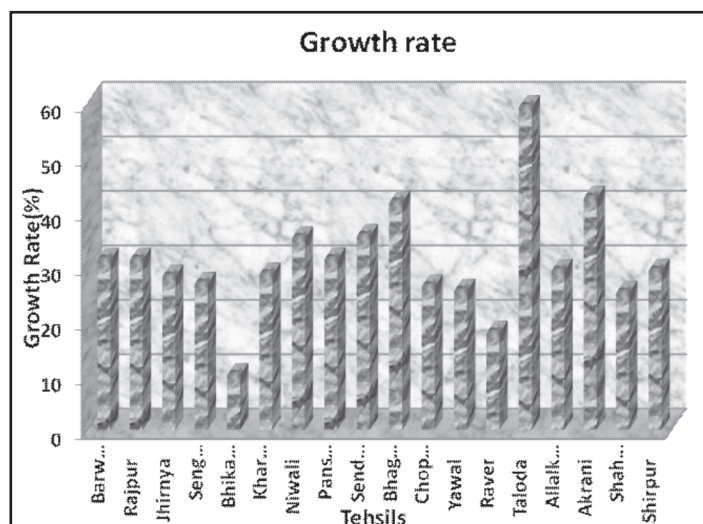
According to the 2001 census the total population of the Western Satpura region is 12,38,378, whereas it was 9,32,253 in 1991.

During 1991-2001 decade, there has been an addition of 3,06,125 persons. The decadal growth rate for the region as a whole is 32.8%. Among all the Tehsils in the region, Taloda tehsil has the highest decadal growth rate (59.3%). Whereas 10.1% is the lowest decadal rate in Bhikangaon tehsil. Generally, the decadal growth rate is higher i.e. more than the average rate of the region in the central and west-central tehsils.

Table No. 2 : Western Satpura Region: Decadal increase in population (1991-2001.)

Sr. No.	Tehsils	Population		Total Growth (1991-2001)	Growth rate
		1991	2001		
1	Barwani	73225	96085	22860	31.22
2	Rajpur	59775	78434	18659	31.22
3	Jhirnya	106455	136412	29957	28.14
4	Sengava	36479	46265	9786	26.83
5	Bhikangaon	33001	36321	3320	10.06
6	Khargone	29309	37682	8373	28.57
7	Niwali	59872	80933	21061	35.18
8	Pansamal	24283	31885	7602	31.31
9	Sendhawa	156000	211528	55528	35.59
10	Bhagwanpura	95485	135355	39870	41.76
11	Chopda	11958	15108	3150	26.34
12	Yawal	5556	6973	1417	25.5
13	Raver	16533	19477	2944	17.81
14	Taloda	17652	28114	10462	59.27
15	Allalkuwa	71699	92622	20923	29.18
16	Akrani	84684	120752	36068	42.59
17	Shahada	13468	16855	3387	25.15
18	Shirpur	36819	47577	10758	29.22
	Region	932253	1238378	306125	32.84

Source: District Census Handbooks of Khargone, Barwani, Jalgaon, Dhule and Nadurbar districts, 2001



Sex Ratio:

According to the 2001 census, the sex ratio for the region as a whole was 985 females per thousand males. Except the western part, the entire region has the ratio less than 1000 females per thousand males only. The Western part of the study region has the sex ratio more than females per thousand males mainly because it is traversed by high mountain ranges. The male workers from this region might have out migrated to the nearby agriculturally prosperous areas of the states of

Maharashtra and Gujrat. Moreover, dowry system practiced in this region is also responsible for higher sex ratio.

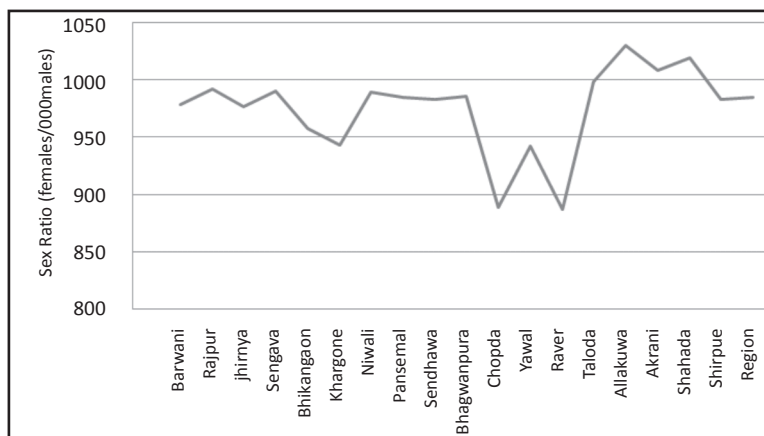
In the region under study, the bridegroom has to pay dowry to bride. Therefore, unlike other parts of the country, dowry system is in favour of females. In the southern part, the sex ratio is less than 950 females per thousand males. These areas are relatively good in economic development in which male workers might have immigrated for the purpose of jobs. A very extensive east-west running belt possesses 950-1000 females per thousand males. The sex ratio in this belt though seems to be low, but it approaches towards the balanced sex ratio, especially, towards the west. The sex ratio in this region increases from 977 in the east to 985 in the west. It also appears that the region having the highest proportion correlated with the high sex ratio.

Table No.3 : Western Satpura Region: Sex Ratio - 2001

Sr. No.	Tehsils	Sex Ratio
1	Barwani	978
2	Rajpur	992
3	Jhirnya	977
4	Sengava	990
5	Bhikangaon	958
6	Khargone	943
7	Niwali	989
8	Pansemal	985
9	Sendhawa	983
10	Bhagwanpura	986
11	Chopda	889
12	Yawal	942
13	Raver	887
14	Taloda	998
15	Allalkuwa	1030
16	Akrani	1008
17	Shahada	1019
18	Shirpur	983
	Region	985

Source: District Census Handbooks of Khargone, Barwani, Jalgaon, Dhule and Nadurbar districts, 2001

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Scheduled Tribe Population:

The Western Satpura region is well for Scheduled Tribe population, because the proportion of Scheduled Tribe population in this region is above 80 percent. The principal tribes in this region are Pawara, Valvi, Gavit, Tadvi, Bhilla, Pardhi and Koli. The proportion of Scheduled Tribe Population increases from the east to the west. However, in the northeastern and the southeastern parts, this proportion has remained less than 70 percent. In the western part of the study region, the proportion is more than 90 percent. This part comprises Akrani, Akkalkuwa, Shahada and Taloda tehsils. In the remaining extensive part of the study region the proportion of scheduled Tribe population is more than 80 percent and they reside in the villages located in the mountainous and the forested areas.

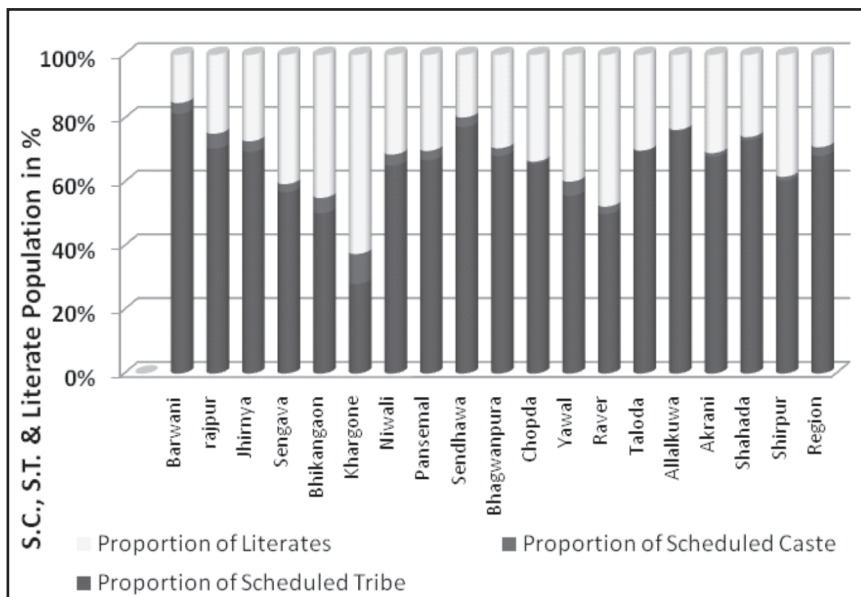
Table No. 4 : Western Satpura Region : Proportion of S.T., S.C. and Literate population to total Population, 2001.

Sr. No.	Tehsils	Proportion of Scheduled Tribe	Proportion of Scheduled Caste	Proportion of Literates
1	Barwani	86.8	3.62	16.09
2	Rajpur	81.5	5.35	28.58
3	Jhirnya	81.5	3.89	31.76
4	Sengava	83	3.7	59.21
5	Bhikangaon	62.4	5.99	55.72
6	Khargone	30.1	10.07	66.96
7	Niwali	86.5	4.57	41.48
8	Pansemal	89.8	3.91	40.45
9	Sendhawa	87.9	3.42	22.32
10	Bhagwanpura	82.8	2.94	35.57
11	Chopda	89.8	0.86	45.67
12	Yawal	69.9	5.55	49.87
13	Raver	62.4	2.78	59.3
14	Taloda	97.8	0.38	42.1
15	Akkalkuwa	96	0.46	29.68
16	Akrani	94.3	1.69	42.79
17	Shahada	93.4	1.34	32.94
18	Shirpur	86.5	1.71	54.66
	Region	84.4	3.35	35.81

Source: District Census Handbooks of Khargone, Barwani, Jalgaon, Dhule and Nadurbar districts, 2001

Scheduled Caste Population:

In the Western Satpura Region, as per 2001 census, the proportion of Scheduled Caste population is 3.4 percent. The relatively high concentration of Scheduled Caste population is found in those areas where the proportion of Scheduled Tribe population is low. Naturally these areas are Bhikangaon and Khargone tehsils in the north, Here the proportion of Scheduled Caste population is more than 6 percent during the census year 2001. In the study region, this proportion is gradually increasing from the west to the east.



Literacy:

According to 2001 census, only 35.81 percent people of the total population are literate. The rate of literacy is relatively high along the northern and the southern borders of the region. These regions are mainly flat and having relatively low altitude. It is characterized by higher proportion of non-tribal as well as urban population. The settlement size is relatively larger where educational institutions are well developed. In the western region, due to its inaccessibility and thereby non-availability of educational facilities, the proportion of literates was significantly low. Generally, the share of male in literate population is more in the mountainous region of the study region and thus less in the flat terrain region.

Moreover, the proportion of male literates is relatively higher than of the females.

Conclusions :-

- * The population is unevenly distributed in the region under study.
- * Akrani, Shirpur and Chopda tehsils have higher population density.
- * The sex ratio for the region as a whole is unbalanced.
- * Dowry system practiced in this region is also responsible for higher sex ratio.
- * Because the proportion of S.T. population is above 80%.
- * In this region only 35.8% people of the total population are literate.
- * The rate of literacy is relatively high along the northern and southern borders of the region.

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