

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF URBAN CENTRES IN PARBHANI DISTRICT (M.S.)

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Introduction—In modern period times there are different ways to classify towns. Urban centres classification can be based on geographical location, situation, stage and the size of population. But in many ways the most meaningful basis of classification is that of function, determined principally by occupational structure of population. Urban centers being the focus of human population perform certain essential functions. These functions are naturally and culturally influenced by that location, site and situation the environmental conditions of urban centers in which they are located. The functional interpretation of towns has become significant aspect of urban study as it provides a good basis for the regional planning.

Study Region—Parbhani district is selected as a study region for the present investigation. It covers for the present study the eastern district of Maharashtra i.e. Parbhani is chosen as a study region. It lies between 18°58' North to 19°50' North latitude and 76°13' East to 77°12' East longitude. The area of the study region is 6511 km² which is 2.11 percent of the total area of the state. The population of the study region is 1491109 (2001 Census) which is 2.76 percent of total population in Maharashtra. In the region includes 830 inhabited villages, eight urban centres and administratively sub divided into nine tahsils. The main irrigation available in the study region are lifts, well and canals. It is observed that the surface irrigation covers 60.31 percent, while well irrigation shares 39.59 percent in total irrigated area. The total area under irrigation is about 21 percent in the whole study region.

Objectives—The present study has certain specific research objectives. To examine the functional classification of urban centres under eight activity categories of func-

tions. These are agricultural, mining and forestry etc., household industry, manufacturing, construction, trade and commercial, transportation and communication and other services.

Database and Methodology—The data for the present study is primarily obtained from the census of India (Parbhani district Census Handbook 1981 to 2001) and statistical abstract of Parbhani district (Yearwise from 1981 to 2003) since the study is from 1981 to 2001. Nelson's method is applied in the present study.

Functional classification of Parbhani district—By using the above mentioned method, the classification of towns in the study region is presented in table no.1. However there are some towns which have more than one prominent functions in the study region. Standard deviation averages for each of the eight activity groups in Latur District Occupation groups.

1) Agricultural Towns- In comparison to the other district in Maharashtra. The study region is poor in industrial development. Agricultural is the prime occupation in the study region. Only Pathari town comes under the category of agricultural towns. For this category $\bar{x} + 2 S.D.$ workers should have to be classed.

Table : 1 Average and Standard Deviation of Major Activity Groups And Classify Towns By Nelson's Method			
Activity	Average (x)	Standard Deviation	Classify Towns By Nelson's Method
Agriculture	18.23	2.92	Pathari
Mining, Forstry etc.	15.97	4.68	Jintur
Household Industry	15.49	4.02	Manaway
Manufacturer Other Than Household Industry	12.83	3.09	Sailu
Constrection	11.27	4.91	Parabhani
Trade and Commerce	8.66	3.87	Gangakhed
Transport and Communication	7.71	2.37	Purna
Other Services	10.81	3.32	Sonpheth

Source: Based on Census of India 2001.

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2) Mining and other primary service Town—Only one town out of eight towns comes under this category and that is Jintur where mining and forestry etc. occupation is the prime occupation. The percentage of labour force required in the occupation before it can be classed as mining, forestry and other primary service towns is $x + 1$ S.D. The services like mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting etc. are combined together in this category.

3) Household Industry-Manawat town comes under household industry out of eight towns in the study region engaged in household industry. The required percentage of workers to include in this category is $x + 1$ S.D.

4) Manufacturing Towns—Only one town can be classed in this category which is Parabhani. The percentage of labours required to classify a town as manufacturing is $x + 1$ S.D. . The town Parabhani is well connected by roads and railway to neighboring towns, moreover, it is a hub of commerce and has different types of small industries as oil expelling industry, ginning and pressing factory. A.C. pipe factory, hydrogenated oil factory etc.

5) Construction Towns—To be classed as the category of construction towns, the percentage of workers $x + 2$ S.D. is required. Only Sailu town comes under this category.

6) Trading and commercial towns—The town

Gangakhed is classed as trading and commercial town, the percentage of workers required to classify a town in this category is $x + 1$ S.D. only. The trading function of this town as an Indian town is expressed in the form of a large number of shops of small size. This category includes both wholesale and retail trade. It deals in a variety of things like sweets, meats, food, cloth, hardware, machine tools, brass ware, silver ware, gold, foodgrains, vegetables and a lot of other commodities which are easily available to this town.

7) Transport and communication towns—Purna town comes under this category and the proportion of workers percentage to reach this category is only $x + 2$ S.D.

8) Other services—To achieve this category, the percentage of labours is $x + 1$ S.D. and this is Sonpeth town in the study region which comes under this category. However, at some extent other services are available in this town.

Conclusion—By applying Nelson's method the following conclusion are found. According to Nelson's method the town Pathari forward in agricultural, Jintur in mining work and forestry, Manwat in household industry and commercial work, Parabhani in construction, Gangakhed in trade and commerce, purna in transportation and communication all town as extant share other work and AUSA tahsils does not come under any category.

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