

## LEVELS OF SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT. (M.S.) A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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### Abstract

The present paper examines the patterns of Socio-Economic development in Solapur District, delineating various Socio-Economic developmental regions, which can form basis for future Socio-Economic improvement and planning. Socio-Economic studies are interdisciplinary in approaches, which reveal many correlated aspects of the society and economy of a region. They are indeed the bases for the habitat of the region. It is therefore, necessary to investigate the social and economic changes in a developing region to make an assessment of the growing prosperity and welfare of the region.

Identification and delineation of socio-economically - weaker area, the levels of socio-economic development are measured for each tahsil with the help of certain indices. Investigation study reveals that only 14 percent area of the study region comes under relatively high development and remaining 86 percent area comes under the category of low and moderate development, which need special attention in developmental process to minimise the spatial variation in the Socio-Economic development and social conflicts.

### INTRODUCTION:

The present paper examines the patterns of Socio-Economic development of Solapur District, delineating various Socio-Economic developmental regions which can form basis for future Socio-economic improvements and planning. Socio-Economic studies are interdisciplinary in approaches, which reveal many correlated aspects of the society and economy of a region. They are indeed the bases for the habitat of the region. It is therefore, necessary to investigate the social and economic changes in a developing region to make an assessment of the growing prosperity and welfare of the region.

### THE REGION:

Solapur district is situated entirely in the Bhima, river basin in southern Maharashtra. It lies between 17°10' to 18°32' north latitudes and 74°42' to 76°15' east longitudes. The district is surrounded by Ahmednagar district to the north, Osmanabad district to the north-east, Karnataka state to the south-east, Sangli district to the south-west, Satara district to the west and Pune district to the north-west. Solapur district has an area of 14895.00 sq. km. and a population 38,55,383 as per 2001 census. It ranks 4th in terms of area and 11th in terms of population amongst districts in the state. In other words solapur is one of the largest districts in the state both in terms of area and population. District as a whole is monotonously underlain by deccan trap basaltic lava flows. These lava flows on account of weathering give rise to undulating topography. Except the offshoots of Balaghat and Phaltan ranges and Bhima river basin, majority part of the district comes under plateau region (80 percent.) Climatically entire region falls in the rainshadow area. Climate of the region is generally dry except during south-west monsoon season. There is a spatial variation in the distribution of rainfall, which increases from west to east. Soils of the region are mainly derived from trap rocks. Basaltic rock structure is the main parent material for the formation of soils.

Economy of the region has a agrarian base. Out of total working population nearly two third (67.55percent) working population engaged in primary economic activities, especially in agriculture and one third in secondary and tertiary sectors of economy. Irrigation has played an important role in transforming

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the agricultural landscape and life of the rural people in the study region. Out of the total gross cropped area in the study region 21.60 percent area is under irrigation. The centers of sugar factories in irrigated area act as service centers in the region. The study region has fairly good system of road and rail network. Transportation plays an important role in the economic development of the region and rural-urban interaction.

#### METHODOLOGY

Identification and delineation of socio-economically- weaker area, the level of socio-economic development is measured for each tahsil with the help of certain indices. The following variables are considered for determining the levels of socio-economic development.

1. Percentage of land under cultivation.
2. Percentage of land under irrigation.
3. Percentage of area under sugarcane cultivation.
4. Percentage of sugar factories.
5. Percentage of area under Horticulture.
6. Percentage of retail traders.
7. Percentage of wholesale traders.
8. Percentage of population engaged in secondary and tertiary activities.
9. Population density.
10. Percentage of Urban Population.
11. Percentage of villages having high schools.
12. Percentage of Higher Education institutions.
13. Percentage of literacy.
14. Percentage of villages having approach by pucca road.
15. Percentage of villages having bus stands.
16. Percentage of villages having post office.
17. Percentage of villages having Tele-Communication facilities.
18. Percentage of villages having primary health centers.
19. Percentage of villages having tap water drinking facilities.

The method adopted to determine levels of development involves two stages, first determination of level of development of tahsil in terms of discrete variables and then integration of the values obtained

to give a composite index of development taking all the variables in to account. The co-efficient of a tahsil in terms of a single variable is expressed as:-

$$CD = \frac{P_i}{PI} \times 100$$

Where,

CDI = The co-efficient of development for variable. i

Pi = Percentage of variable i, in the areal unit.

PI = Mean percentage of variable i, in study region.

By summing the development indices taking account all variables, we get the composite index of development by following equation.

$$CID = \frac{CDI1 + CDI2 + CDI3 \dots\dots\dots CDI_n}{N}$$

Where,

CID = Composite index of development. N = Number of variables.

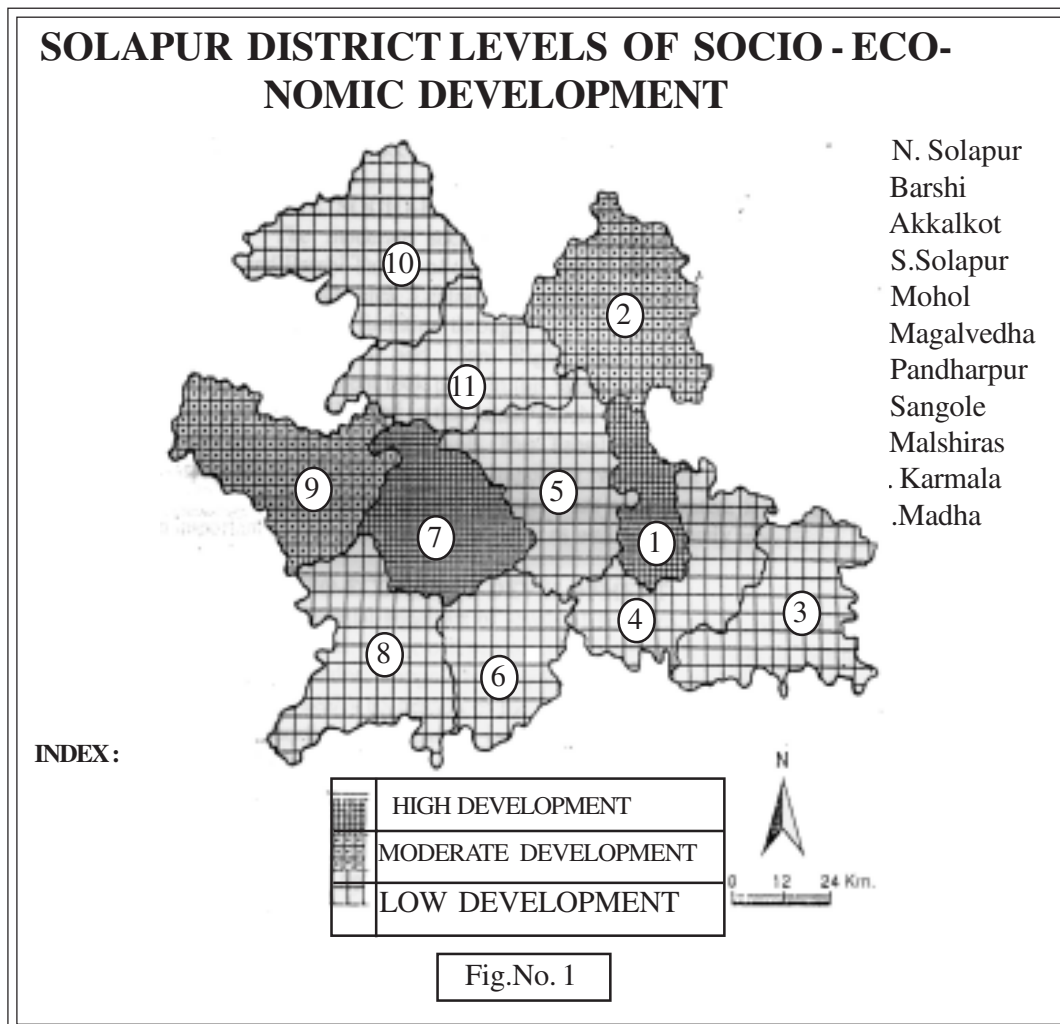
#### THE ANALYSIS :-

Levels of socio-economic development are thus calculated for all eleven tahsils on the basis of above formula. The composite development indices so obtained are given in the Table No. -1. The indices thus obtained were arranged in ascending order so as to divide the tahsil in three categories, and same are portrayed cartographically in Figure No.-1.

**Table no.-1** Solapur District- composite index of development.

No	Tahsil	CDI	CID	Classification
1.	N.Solapur	1487.5	165.27	High
2.	Barshi	907.77	100.86	Moderate
3.	Akkalkot	691.16	76.79	Low
4.	S.Solapur	674.63	74.95	Low
5.	Mohol	662.24	73.58	Low
6.	Mangalvedha	642.79	71.42	Low
7.	Pandharpur	1136.01	126.22	High
8.	Sangole	677.83	75.32	Low
9.	Malshiras	935.61	103.95	Moderate
10.	Karmala	668.61	74.29	Low
11.	Madha	665.2	73.91	Low

**Source:-** Computed by the Authors.



#### I. HIGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT :-

High socio-economic development is found in north Solapur and Pandharpur tahsils. It covers nearly 14 percent of total geographical area. Both the tahsils are more urbanised tahsils of the area where two urban centers are located. Solapur city (class- I) is located in north solapur tahsil with an administrative status as a district headquarter. Pandharpur is a class II town of the area with an administrative status as a sub divisional head quarter. Both the tahsils are well connected by roads and rail routes.

Canal irrigation facilities are recently made available to pandharpur tahsil through Ujani Right

Bank Canal, which contributes to the development of agriculture and sugar factories in the tahsil. At present there are two sugar factories in co-operative sector in the tahsil.

#### II. MODERATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The moderate socio-economic development is observed in Malshiras and Barshi Tahsils of the study area. It covers nearly 21 percent of the total geographical area. Central and northern part of Malshiras tahsil is benefited by irrigation facilities through Nira right Bank Canal and Ujani Right Bang Canal, because of this agricultural development took

place in this tahsil. Out of 13 sugar factories in the study area 4 are located in this tahsil. Barshi tahsil has also good amount of cultivable land with fertile soils. This tahsil has moderate road and rail transport facility. Barshi town is an important town of the study area, where agrobased medium and small size industries are concentrated. It also acts as an important commercial town of the tahsil as well as the study area.

### III. LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT :-

The spatial analysis of levels of socio-economic development shows that low level of socio-economic development is found in Madha, Karmala, Mangalvedha, Sangole, Mohol, Akkalkot and South Solapur tahsils. It covers nearly 65 percent of the total geographical area. Most of the southern and north-western part is included in this category. Though more

land is available for cultivation, poor irrigation facilities have retarded the progress of this area.

### CONCLUSION :-

Spatial analysis of the levels of socio-economic development clearly indicates that only 14 percent area of the study region comes under relatively high development area and remaining 86 percent area comes under the category of low and moderate development. It seems that there is vast contrast in the socio-economic development. To avoid the spatial disparity in the development special attention of govt. and non -govt. agencies is essential. As the economy of the region has agrarian base priority in developmental process should be given to agricultural sector through modern measures. Social development will automatically takes place with the economic development.

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