

A STUDY OF FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS IN LATUR DISTRICT (M.S.)

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In modern times there were different ways to classify towns. Classification can be based on geographical location, 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. Urban centers being the focus of human population perform certain essential functions. These functions are naturally influenced by that site, 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 AREA-Latur district has been selected as per study area. The location of the Latur district is considered it lies between 17° 52' and 18° 50' North latitudes, 76° 12' and 77° 18' East longitudes. The total area covered to the Census 2001, the total population is accounts for 2.39 percent of the area of the state and 2.15 percent of the state.

OBJECTIVES-The present study has certain specific research objectives.

(1) To examine the functional classification of urban settlements under eight activities categories of functions.

- 1) Agricultural
- 2) Mining
- 3) Household industry
- 4) Manufacturing
- 5) Construction
- 6) Trading and commercial
- 7) Transport and communication
- 8) Other services

DATABASE-The data for the present study is primary obtained from the Census of India (Latur district Census Handbook 1981 to 2001) and statistical abstract of Latur district (yearwise from 1981 to 2003-04) since the study is from 1981 to 2001.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF LATUR DISTRICT-By using the above mentioned method, the classification of towns in the study region is presented in table no. 1.1 & 1.2. However there are some towns which have more than one prominent functions in the study region.

Table No. 1
Standard deviation averages for each of the eight activity groups in Latur District Occupation Groups

Activity	Averages	Standard deviation	Average + S-D
1) Agriculture	19.38	3.34	22.72
2) Mining forest etc.	16.16	7.01	23.17
3) Household industry	18.15	4.51	22.66
4) Manufacture other than household industry	11.52	2.97	14.49
5) Construction	10.67	4.20	14.87
6) Trade & commerce	6.90	3.35	10.25
7) Transport & communication	6.88	2.67	9.55
8) Other services	9.15	2.30	11.45

Source: Based on Census of India 1991 and 2001

Table No. 1.2
Classification Town's by Nelson's Method (1991)

Activity	Tahsils
1) Agriculture	Udgir
2) Mining forest etc.	Latur
3) Household industry	Ahmadpur & Latur
4) Manufacture other than household industry	Latur
5) Construction	Udgir

a) Agricultural towns-In comparison to the other district in Maharashtra the study region is poor in industrial development. Agriculture is the prime occupation in the study region. Only Udgir town comes under the category of agricultural towns. For this category 19.38% workers should have to be classed. Only one town in Udgir tahsil comes under this category.

b) Mining and other Primary Services Town-Only one town out of five towns comes under this category and that is Latur where mining and forestry etc. occupation is the prime occupation. The percentage of labour force required in this occupation before it can be classed as mining and other primary services towns is 23.17. The services like mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting etc. are combined together in this category.

c) Household Industry- Two towns i.e. Latur and Ahmedpur out of five towns in the study region engaged in household industry. The required percentage of workers to include in this category is 22.16%.

d) Manufacturing Towns - Only one town can be classed in this category which is Latur tahsil. The percentage of labours required to classify a town as manufacturing is 14.49. The town Latur is well connected

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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.

e) Construction Towns-To be classed as the category of construction towns, the percentage of workers 14.87 is required. Only Udgir comes under this category.

f) Trading and Commercial Towns- The town Latur is classed as trading and commercial town, the percentage of workers required to classify a town in this category is 10.25 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 sweet meats, food, cloth hardware, machine tools, glassware, brass wate, silver ware, gold, food, grains, vegetables and a lot of other com-

modities which are easily available to this town.

g) Transport and Communication Towns- Two towns i.e. Latur and Nilanga comes under this category and the proportion of workers percentage to reach this category is only 9.55.

h) Other Services- To achieve this category, the percentage of labours is 12.45 and there is no town in the study region which comes under this category. However, at some extent other services are available in each towns.

SUMMARY- By applying Nelson method the following conclusion are found. According to Nelson method the town Udgir forward in agricultural, Latur in mine work and forestry, Ahmadpur & Latur in household industry, Udgir in construction, Latur and Nilanga in trading and commercial work, all town as extant share other work and AUSA tahsils does not come under any category.

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