# A STUDY OF POPULATION DENSITY IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

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**ABSTRACT:**

The density of population is fundamental concept of population geography. The population density related to total population and area occupied by them. Population aspects the density of population are essential to include in the introducing subject, to understand overall nature of the region, due to interrelated impacts of physical, social and economic aspects done another.

Density of population is a simple concept of relating population size to the land area with a view to assessing crudely the pressure of population upon the resources of area. Thus, it is a measure of the incidence of population concentration and is generally expressed in terms of persons per sq. kilometer, or per sq. mile of land area rather 66 than of gross area. The numerator in this calculation is area. (Chandana, 2006)

The term 'density of population' indicates the man land ratio. This is calculated by dividing the numbers of persons of a country or region by the total land area. Density depends on many natural and human factors, such as soil, rainfall, climate, economic resources, and the stage of economic growth and so on. Since these factors differ in many places, density will also differ. Density measures the degree of population concentration in a particular area. (Ghosh, 1985)

This research paper analyzes tehsil wise patterns and changes in density of population in the study area from the Census 1991 to 2011.

**KEY WORDS:  Density, Population.**

**INTRODUCTION**:

Population density is generally shown as the number of people per sq. km. Density of population is usually influenced by physical, social, economic and political factors. Density of population has never been the same; it changes as the region changes. Density has always been in the desert, on high peaks of hills and in the jungles, but has been more in plains. The people will obviously like to settle at places where there is good climate and water, transport, education, communication facilities and job opportunities are adequately available (Hansaraj, 1981)

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Kolhapur district is divided in to twelve tehsils Viz. Ajra, Bhudargad, Gadhinglaj, Chandgad, Shahuwadi, Panhala, Karvir, Hatkanangle, Shirol, Radhanagari, Kagal and Bavda. Study area is mostly rural in nature, there is stumpy urban population, maximum study area is hilly in nature, because of difference in physical, social and economic conditions of study area there also observed differences in population density.

**THE STUDY AREA:**

The Kolhapur district lies between 15º 17' and 17º 17' North latitude and 73º 40' and 74 º 42' East longitudes. According to District Census 2011, it has an area of 7685 sq. km. with a population of 38, 76,001. It is surrounded by the boundaries on the north by district of Sangli, on the west the district of Ratnagiri and on the south, and east by the Belgaum district of Karnataka state. Kolhapur district divided in to twelve tehsils Viz. Ajra, Bhudargad, Gadhinglaj, Chandgad, Shahuwadi, Panhala, Karvir, Hatkanangle, Shirol, Radhanagari, Kagal and Bavda.



**Figure 1**

**OBJECTIVES:**

1) To examine the Spatio-temporal distribution in population density.
2) To study the Spatio-temporal fluctuations in population density.

## DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present study is based on secondary data. The data have been collected from the published Census reports of Maharashtra government; district Census Handbook of Kolhapur district (1991-2011), Census abstracts of Maharashtra (1991-2011). The density of population has been cartographically represented at tahsil level on the basis of selected scale.
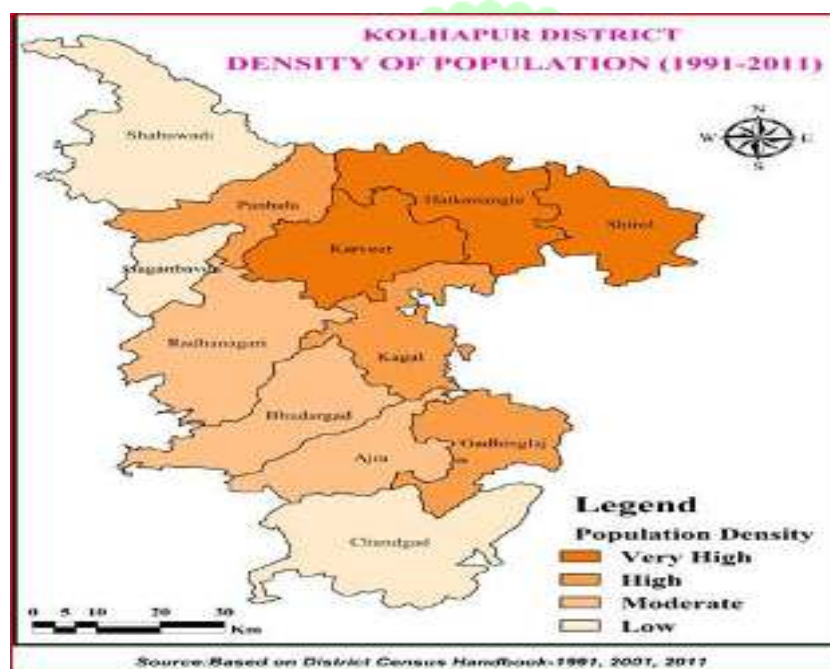
**Table-1**
**Kolhapur District**
**Distribution and Fluctuations of Population Density (1991-2011)**

| Sr. No. | Name of Tahsils | Persons per sq. km | | | Fluctuations in Density | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1991 | 2001 | 2011 | 1991-2001 | 2001-2011 |
| 1 | Shahuwadi | 152 | 170 | 178 | 18 | 8 |
| 2 | Panhala | 364 | 420 | 456 | 56 | 36 |
| 3 | Hatkanangle | 946 | 1167 | 1315 | 221 | 148 |
| 4 | Shirol | 607 | 707 | 777 | 100 | 70 |
| 5 | Karveer | 1100 | 1339 | 1549 | 239 | 210 |
| 6 | Gaganbavda | 99 | 115 | 127 | 16 | 12 |
| 7 | Radhanagari | 189 | 210 | 224 | 21 | 14 |
| 8 | Kagal | 389 | 453 | 503 | 64 | 50 |
| 9 | Bhudargad | 198 | 223 | 234 | 25 | 11 |
| 10 | Ajara | 194 | 220 | 219 | 26 | -1 |
| 11 | Gadhinglaj | 411 | 449 | 469 | 38 | 20 |
| 12 | Chandgad | 168 | 190 | 197 | 22 | 7 |
| | **District Total** | **392** | **454** | **504** | **62** | **46** |

*Source: District Census Handbook Kolhapur (1991-2011)*

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## I) Areas of Very High Population Density (Above 601 Persons per. Sq.km):

Areas of very high population density have been recorded in Karveer, Hatkanangle and Shirol tahsil which is 1549, 1315 and 777 persons per sq. km respectively. These three tahsils have recorded very high population density during 1991 to 2011. These tahsils are socio-economically developed due to the suitable geographical environment. In these tahsils, the largest part cover an area of Panchaganga river and its tributaries due to that high per cent of fertile soil, high agricultural efficiency, perennial irrigation facilities, commercial activities, development of agro based industries and also industrial development of these tahsils. Educational facilities mostly found in Karveer and Hatkanangle tahsil due to that these tahsil having very high population density.



Map -1

## II) Areas of High Population Density (401 to 600 Persons per. Sq.km):

It is indicated that, high population density (401-600 persons per sq. km) recorded in Kagal, Gadhinglaj and Panhala tahsils which is 503, 469 and 456 respectively. These tahsils have high population density because of plain surface of Kagal tahsil, highly deep black soil, good infrastructural facilities and also presence of fertile soil.

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**III) Areas of Moderate Population Density (201 to 400 Persons per. Sq.km):**

This category consists of Bhudargad, Radhanagari and Ajara tahsil which is 234, 224 and 219 respectively. These tahsils have registered moderate population density because the geographical and socio-economical conditions of these tahsils are moderate. Bhudargad, Radhanagari and Ajara tahsils have hilly topography, agriculturally developed river valleys and most of these tahsils area covered of radish and laterite soil.

**IV) Areas of Low Population Density (Below 200 Persons per. Sq.km):**

Chandgad, Shahuwadi and Gaganbavda these tahsils registered low population density which is 197, 178 and 127 persons per sq. km respectively. These tahsils having hilly undulating topography, very high rainfall which adversely affected on irrigation, thick forest area, unfertile soil and low proportion of arable land and inaccessibility.

In short physical factors like climate, relief, fertility of land and agricultural, industrial, educational etc. development have influenced the distribution of population and density in different tahsils.

**CONCLUSION:**

1) Demographic characteristics are directly related to the regional inequalities in the social development.
2) The inhabitants of any area is never stagnant, it changes throughout time and space.
3) So in this research paper, a brief study has been completed about the density of population of the study area.
4) Areas of very high population density have been recorded in Karveer, Hatkanangle and Shirol tahsil which is 1549, 1315 and 777 persons per sq. km respectively. These tahsils are socio-economically developed due to the suitable geographical environment.
5) Areas of high population density (401-600 persons per sq. km) recorded in Kagal, Gadhinglaj and Panhala tahsils which is 503, 469 and 456 respectively. These tahsils have high population density because of most of the part having plain surface.

6) Moderate population density found in Bhudargad, Radhanagari and Ajara tahsil which is 234, 224 and 219 respectively. These tahsils have registered moderate population density because the geographical and socio-economical conditions of these tahsils are moderate.

7) Chandgad, Shahuwadi and Gaganbavda these tahsils registered low population density which is 197, 178 and 127 persons per sq. km respectively.

8) In short physical factors like climate, relief, fertility of land and agricultural, industrial, educational etc. development have influenced the distribution of population and density in different tahsils.

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