



A Geographical Analysis of Occupational Structure in Phaltan Tahsil of Satara District (MS)

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Abstract: *The name of the function which a person performance by engaging himself in that particular branches of gainful activity. This study is essential to understand the economic base of urban region is vital importance in understand our city level of development. Because occupation is one of the parameters by which one can measure the level of economic development of the Phaltan Tahsil. Here the working population which is engaged in different economic activities, these are divided into nine categories. The occupational structure of Phaltan Tahsil is an increase in the percentage of people engaged in tertiary activities.*

Keywords: *Male and Female Population, Occupational Structure, Economic Condition.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In modern society, with its characteristic division of labour, specialization of functions, new methods of exchange and the impact of prevailing ideology, the overwhelming majority of the people engage in a specific and relatively continuous activity in order to earn their livelihood and maintain a definite social status. This activity in the literature of the social sciences is designed as "occupation". We need not go far to believe that the concept of occupation is fundamental to the true society and to perceive that at least for the time being modern society is organized on an occupational basis. Occupation as means of livelihood has its own significance in distinguishing a man from another, providing every individual a feeling of economic independence and at the same time, it unites men of different origins, social and cultural background. It also serves as the link between individuals and society and provides a specific form to the social structure. The growth of the population is directly related to the character of the occupation. Mukherjee and Sing (1954) have defined occupation as, "The name of the function which a person performs by engaging himself in that particular branch of gainful economic activity which is his industry." The term occupation structure indicates the unitary relationship pattern of the three occupational components of the working population. These components include primary, secondary and tertiary activities of urban settlements. The occupational characteristics of a place depend largely on its socio-economic history, the sequence of its growth, its basic functions and the resources of the region in which it is located. The nature and complexity of economic base give rise to a distinctive type of occupation characteristics.

II. STUDY AREA

Phaltan Tahsil is selected for the study. Phaltan Tahsil covering the part of The Nira river basin is one of the economically prosperous Tahsils of Satara district in the southern Maharashtra. It lies between 17°58' north to 18°5' north latitude and 74°20' east to 74°40' east longitude. It has total geographical area of 1190 sq.km. with 128 villages and one urban settlement (2011 census). This area is bounded by the Nira River in north side. The region attains 576 metres height (M.S.L.) with the northward sloping land drained mainly by the Banganga, a right bank tributary of the Nira River.

Phaltan Tahsil lies in east of Satara district. It is surrounded by Baramati Tahsil in the north side, In the southeast side lies Man Tahsil, In the southern side lies Khatav Tahsil, in the southwest side lies Koregaon Tahsil and in the western side lies Khandala Tahsil and Solapur district belongs to the east. According to 2011 Census the area has 3, 42,667 population, out of these 1, 76,250 are males and 1, 66,417 are females and density of population is 287 per square kilometre. State highway, major district and other roads are major routs of transport besides broad-gauge railway route in Phaltan Tahsil. Phaltan is an administrative head quarter of this Tahsil (Fig.-1).

III. OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of this paper are as under:

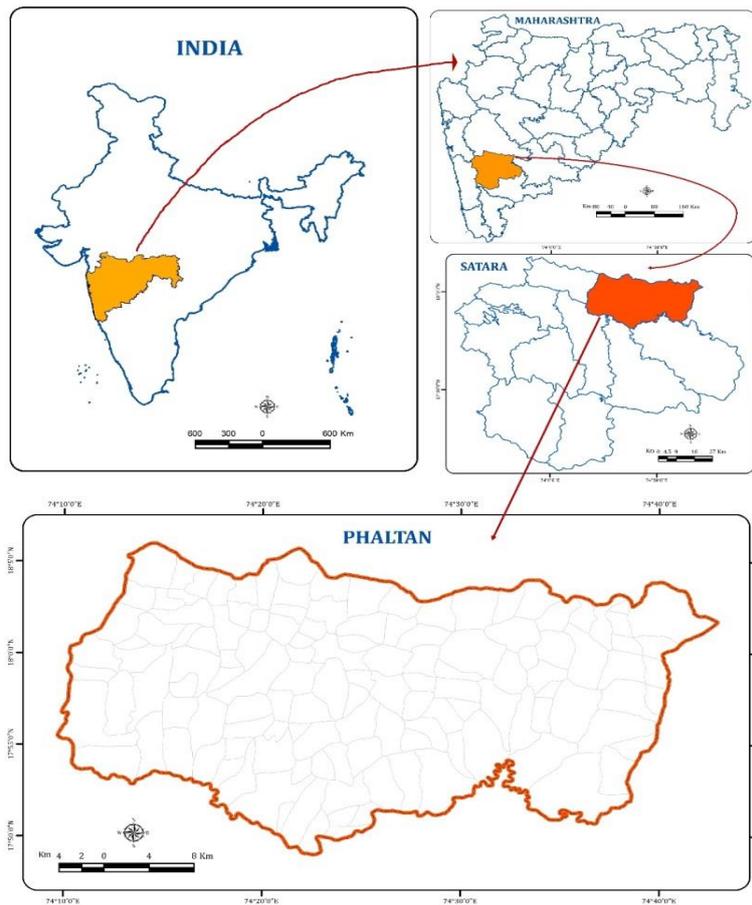
1. To study the occupational structure in the study region.
2. To analyse the economic condition of population in the study region.
3. To analyse the working population in the study region.

IV. DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

Basically the entire study is based on secondary data. The population for the year 1991 to 2011 is derived the census reports and socio-economic abstract of the concerned Phaltan Tahsil. The collected data were later on tabulated into table, from given in the text. The occupational structure has computed by applying formula by many geographers. The spatial distribution of occupational structure for study region has shown by cartographic methods.

Figure 1: Location Map of Phaltan Tahsil

LOCATION MAP



V. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

In the logical study of occupational structure of rural settlements, it is essential to consider the working population as the basic criterion because working population is the activity agency in the economic productive activity in a region. For the purpose of convenience and to avoid discrepancy, the functional activities of region have been regrouped into the following eight categories:

Table 1

Sr. No.	Census of India functional activities	Regrouped categories
1	I) Cultivators II) Agricultural labourers III) Livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards and allied activities	Primary activities
2	IV) Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs, a) Household industry b) Other than house hold industry V) Construction	Secondary activity
3	VI) Trade and commerce VII) Transportation, storage, communication VIII) Other services	Tertiary activity

These eight categories of activities classified into three groups: Primary activities, secondary activities and tertiary activities. The primary activity is concerned with the production and extraction of raw materials. In includes, first,

second, third and fourth categories of workers. The secondary activity includes the fifth and sixth categories of workers and it associated with the processing, fabrication, construction and manufacturing of materials. The tertiary activity is associated with the service and amenities and includes the seventh, eighth and ninth categories of workers.

VI. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PHALTAN TAHSIL:

The work participation rate for total workers is defined as the percentage of total workers to total population. In a similar way, it is defined for main and marginal workers. In the year 2011, it is recorded 46.13 per cent of population as working population. Out of the total working population, male participation rate in the city is 62.20 per cent and female participation only 37.80 per cent. It may be observed that percentage of total working population in 1991 was 38.15 per cent, which has increased to 46.13 per cent in the year 2011. The percentage of male working population in 1991 was 65.17 per cent, which has reduced to 56.50 per cent in the year 2001. But female working population increased from 8.67 per cent (Table-2).

Table 2: Phaltan Tahsil: Percentage of Working Population (1991 To 2011)

Sr. No.	Years	Percent of working population	Percent of male working population	Percent of female working population
1	1991	38.15	65.17	34.83
2	2001	40.96	56.50	43.50
3	2011	46.13	62.20	37.80

Source: Computed by Researcher

The analysis clearly indicates that the share of total working population of male has found decreased and female working population has increased but percentage of male population still remain higher than female working population.

VII. OCCUPATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PHALTAN TAHSIL:

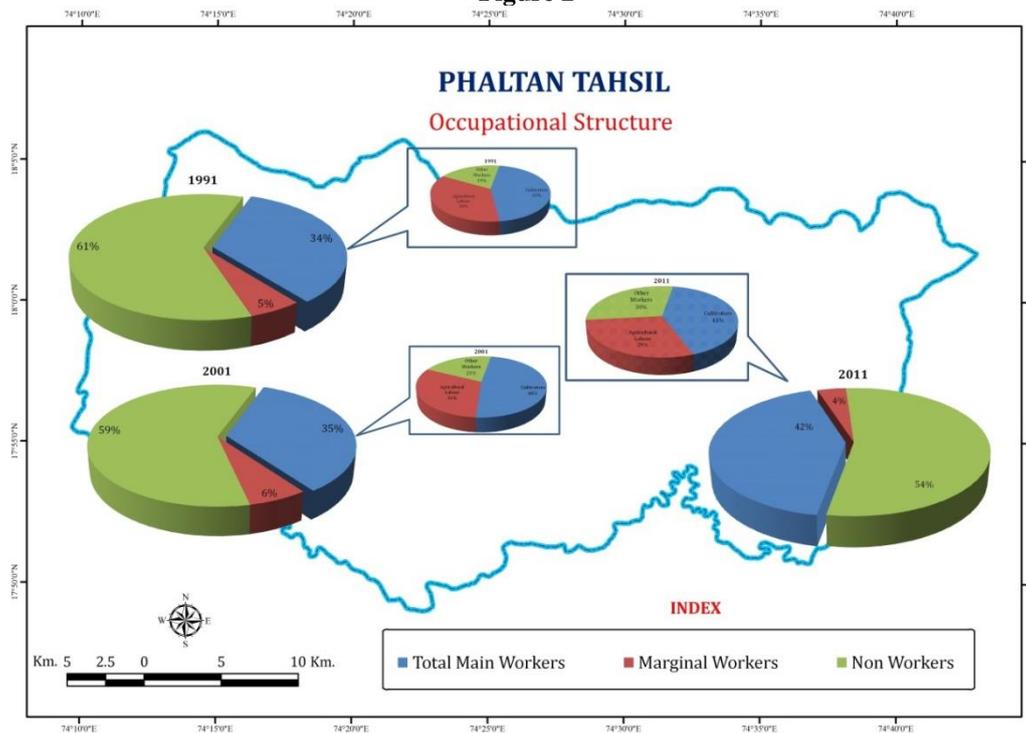
The economic strength and weakness, dynamism and stagnation of a Phaltan Tahsil are reflected in its occupational character. Therefore, an examination of the occupational structure of Phaltan Tahsil based on census data is being attempted. The analysis is confined to the data recorded to three decades from 1991 to 2011.

Table 3: Phaltan Tahsil: Occupational Structure (In Percentage)

Sr. No.	Category	1991	2001	2011
1	Primary	76.11	69.38	70.46
2	Secondary	9.14	2.94	2.50
3	Tertiary	14.75	27.68	27.04
4	Total	100	100	100

Source: Computed by Researcher.

Figure 2



A larger proportion of the working population in the primary sector reflects the economic weakness of Tahsil. The primary sector is not important from urban growth point of view. It may be observed that primary sector has declined from 6.73 per cent. In the secondary sector, the percentage of workers in 1991 was 9.14 which were reduced to 6.64 per cent in the year 2011. This decrease may be attributed to shifting of Phaltan tahsil as a locus of oil engine manufacture to some other type of manufacturing industries. This transformation took place due to availability of chief electricity for the agricultural purposes and increase in the cost of fuels like, diesel, kerosene and crude oil. At the same time sugar industries which were engaged in the manufacturing of the sugar. Some manufacturing units were shifted outside the city limits due to problems like, transportation, population effluent disposal etc. some workers have engaged in the occupations like, construction of buildings, road, bridges etc. through this increase was not substantial to counter balance, the decrease that took place due to reasons mentioned above. The Table-3 shows decrease in the secondary sector. It is only 2.50 per cent occurred in the span of 20 years in the life of a tahsil, and it has not affected the occupational structure as a whole of the tahsil. The percentage of workers in the tertiary sectors of higher than those of secondary and primary sectors. This is definitely showing an increasing trend. The percentage of the tertiary sector increased from 14.75 per cent to 27.04 per cent. It may be noted that employment opportunities in the categories like, trade and commerce, transport and communication and other services have increased enormously due to the opening of new means of communication and transportation offices and related activities during last three decades.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The primary sector is important from rural growth point of view. It may be observed that primary and secondary sectors have declined. This is definitely showing an increasing trend of the tertiary sector. Similarly the percentage of workers in the tertiary sector is higher than those of secondary and primary sectors.

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