

“Work participation Rate in Urban Centres of Sangli District”

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ABSTRACT:

The study of economic composition of population remains incomplete without its reference to the occupational composition of a population. The occupation referred to trade or profession or type of work one is engaged for survival. Participation in any economically productive activity is called as *work*. A person doing any type of economically productive activity is a *worker*. The term *labour force* is equivalent to *economically active population*, according to the terminology recommended by the United Nations. Similarly, the term *working population* is also equivalent to *economically active population*. A distinction is also made between *main workers* and *marginal workers*. Census of India divides the population into two categories of workers and non-workers. The size of working force depends upon a variety of demographic, social and economic factors. The composition of occupational structure in an area varies by sex, residence and age. Both, child and female participation in economic activities in rural areas are relatively high in comparison to that in the urban areas. However, the bulk of working force in most of the countries is supplied by the age group of 15 to 59/64. In the present paper an attempt has made to analyse the Work Participation Rate of not only the total persons but also of males and females of all the 8 Urban Centres in Sangli District. Spatio-temporal changes in WPR are studied by using the Census data of 1991 and 2001.

Key Words: *Labour force, Economically Active / Inactive population, Main / Marginal workers, Occupational structure.*

INTRODUCTION:

Among various elements of population composition, economic composition holds a prime place for population geographers. The study of economic composition of population remains incomplete without its reference to the occupational composition of a population. The occupation referred to trade or profession or type of work one is engaged for survival (Chandna and Sidhu)¹. However, each kind of occupation means doing a certain type of work. We must understand the term ‘*work*’ correctly because this word is used in a special sense in the Census. Participation in any economically

productive activity is called as ‘*work*’. A person doing any type of economically productive activity is a ‘*worker*’. The size of working population, its distribution into various occupations, sex-wise participation in different economic activities etc. are studied in the ‘*structure of occupation*’. The occupational structure of a society is the product of number of intimately related factors. A distinction has often also been made between total population and manpower. Manpower of a nation consists of those persons who are fit enough to produce goods and services and who have the personality to participate in the economically gainful

activities (Chandna). Different countries classify manpower further into two sub-categories of economically active population and economically non-active population. Several similar terms are used in the study of the economic activity. It is necessary to classify them in greater detail in order to avoid confusion.

The term ‘*labour force*’ is equivalent to ‘*economically active population*’, according to the terminology recommended by the United Nations³. Similarly, the term ‘*working population*’ is also equivalent to ‘*economically active population*’ (United Nations). The Multilingual Demographic Dictionary defined working population as, “*Generally speaking, the working population consists of those individuals who take part in the production of economic goods and services, including unpaid family workers in an economic enterprise as well as persons who work for pay and profit*”. According to the Census of India, “*Work (economic activity) may be defined as participation in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit*”. Such participation may be physical and/or mental in nature. The definition of a worker in India has been changing

from census to census. At the time 1981 Census, however, a distinction was made between *main workers* and *marginal workers*. The 1981 Census of India first attempted to divide the population into two categories of workers and non-workers. The trend in working force and occupational structure of regional population are associated with the overall physio-socio-economic set-up of the state (karve). The composition of occupational structure in an area varies by sex, residence and age. No wonder, the male participation rates are ubiquitously more than female participation rates in almost all the counties of the world. Both, child and female participation in economic activities in rural areas are relatively high in comparison to that in the urban areas (Clarke). However, the bulk of working force in most of the countries is supplied by the age group of 15 to 59/64. Advancement in science and technology introduces an element of specialization in the composition by creating highly specialized types of jobs. All these developments together breed a new urban culture, which is more service oriented. It modifies the occupational structure considerably (Chandna).

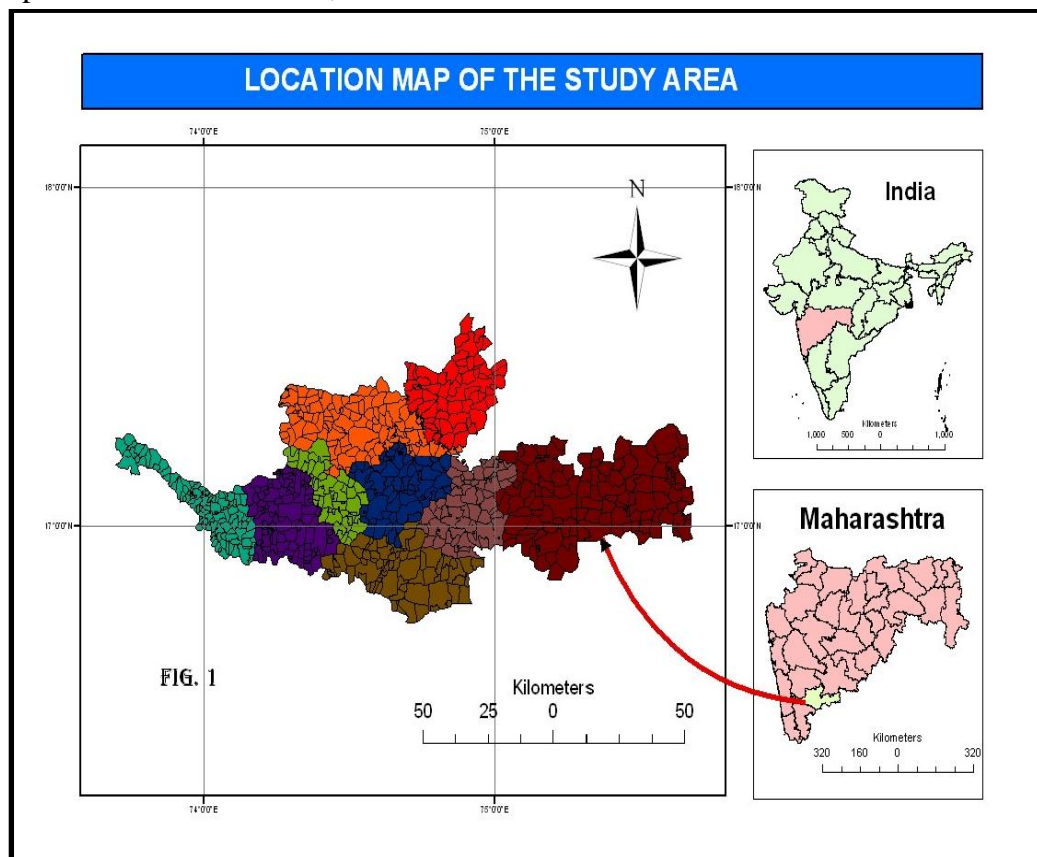
THE STUDY AREA :

The study area is a district, i.e. “*Sangli District*” in Maharashtra state of India. Its selection identifies and recognizes *District* as basis of the administrative system in India. A *district is defined as territory marked off for a special administrative purpose*

(Oxford) and *District Administration defined by Khera (1972), is the management of public affairs within a territory marked off such purpose*. It is the most important of all the units in area administration.

The district of Sangli like Satara and Kolhapur is a Southern district of Maharashtra state. It lies between 16°40' and 17°33' North Latitude and 73°42' and 75°40' East longitude (Rammurthy), and has an area of 8572 sq. km. and Population of 25, 83,524 spread over in 9 tahsils, 721 inhabited

villages, 3 uninhabited villages and 8 urban centers (Census, 2001). Of the 35 districts in Maharashtra state, Sangli district occupies 21st rank in area and 15th rank in population. Hence, it is smaller in area and medium sized in population.



OBJECTIVES:

1. To analyse the Work participation Rates of all the 8 Urban centres in Sangli district.
2. To study the Spatio-temporal changes of WPR of these urban centres.
3. To find the causes and effects of these changes.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present paper is entirely based on secondary data. The secondary data on WPR have been gathered from Directorate of Census Operations, Maharashtra, Mumbai (1991 & 2001). 'The work participation rate (WPR) is defined as percentage of total workers (main and marginal) to total population' (2001 Census).

The formula adopted for the same is as follows :-

$$\text{Work Participation Rate (WPR)} = \frac{\text{Total Workers (Main + Marginal)}}{\text{Total Population}} \times 100.$$

The present work is entirely descriptive and analytical. All the urban centres are depicted on maps by using location divided circles.

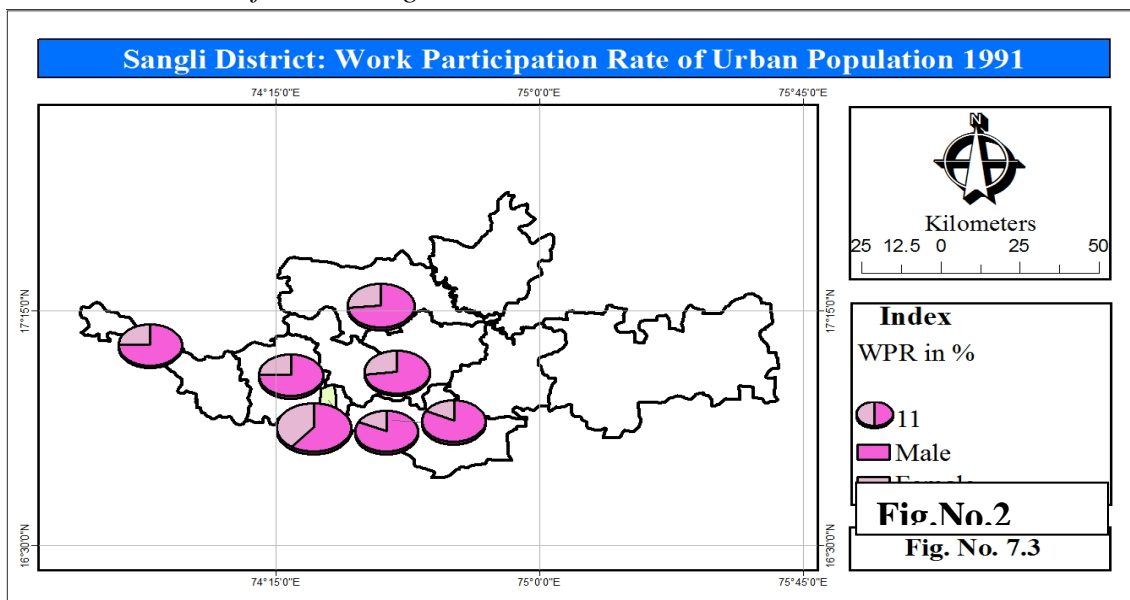
WORK PARTICIPATION RATES IN URBAN CENTERS (1991-2001)

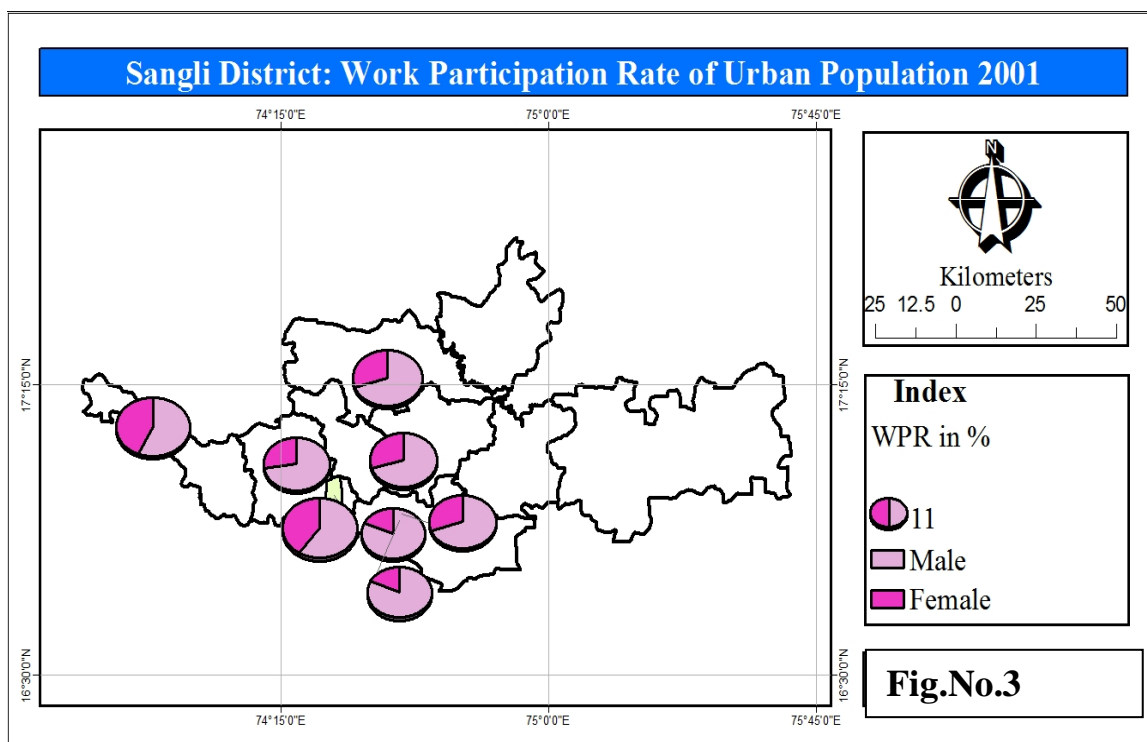
Table 1

Sangli District : Work Participation Rates in Urban Centres (1991- 2001)

Sr. No.	Name of Urban Centre	Work Participation Rate (in %)					
		1991			2001		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1.	Manadur	32.35	47.92	15.85	44.20	51.60	37.40
2.	Ashta	44.70	54.99	33.91	45.60	55.30	35.30
3.	Uran Islampur	33.29	48.94	16.31	35.40	50.80	18.90
4.	Vita	36.02	52.32	18.77	39.20	54.60	22.80
5.	Tasgaon	34.38	49.50	18.18	36.80	51.50	20.90
6.	Budhgaon	N A	N A	N A	36.40	49.90	21.10
7.	Madhavnagar	32.60	51.41	11.69	33.40	53.00	12.60
8.	Sangli	32.66	50.54	13.27	-	-	-
9.	Miraj	29.45	48.02	9.83	-	-	-
10.	Sangli-Miraj- Kupwad	N A	N A	N A	32.10	50.70	12.40
District Average		32.88	50.06	14.44	34.00	51.30	15.70

Source : *Census Of India, Sangli District, 1991 and 2001.*





In 1991 the work participation rate (WPR) in urban areas for the district is 32.88 per cent as against the state average of 32.32 per cent. Compared to the state figures there has been a marginal increase within the urban areas of the district. Again a slight increase is observed in urban WPR of the district (34.03%) and state average (34.0%) in 2001. In rural as well as in urban areas the proportion of workers in the male population tends to be considerably higher than that of the female population. Sangli district too conforms to this general tendency. In the district the proportion of the male workers in urban areas is 50.06% (in 1991) and 51.46% (in 2001), whereas the female proportion is only 14.44% (in 1991) and 15.55% (in 2001).

In 1991 Miraj town has the lowest WPR i.e. 29.45 % whereas Ashta town has the highest WPR of 44.70%. In 2001 Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Corporation Area has the lowest WPR of 32.1% and the highest of 45.6% is registered again in Ashta town followed by Manadur town (44.2%). Generally, higher degree of urbanization of any particular area or region leads to a decrease in proportion of workers in the population of the unit. Since Miraj (in 1991) and Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Corporation Area (in 2001) are more urbanized, it is natural to find that the WPRs are the lowest. By the same reasoning Ashta and Manadur are less urbanized towns naturally contain a higher proportion of workers in their population. In 1991, four urban centres viz., Ashta (44.70%), Vita (36.02%), Tasgaon

(34.38%) and Uran Islampur (33.29%) have slightly higher WPR than the district urban average (32.88%). Whereas, Sangli (32.66%), Miraj (29.45%), Madhavnagar (32.60%) and Manadur (32.35%) have registered slightly lower WPR than the district average. But in 2001 this scenario has been totally changed. Only Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Corporation Area and Mandhavnagar town have slightly lower WPR than the district average. Remaining all the urban centres have registered higher WPR than the district average.

Table 1 and Fig. 2 & 3 represent not only the total WPR but also male-female WPR of urban population in the study area during 1991-2001. In 1991 the average male WPR of the study area was 50.06% which is increased by only 1.24% in 2001. It is evident from these figures that about half of the male population in urban areas was dependent. The disparity between the proportions of WPRs among males and females is comparatively higher in the study area. The female WPRs in urban centers during 1991 and 2001 were 14.44% and 15.67% respectively. Thus, the gender gap in WPR is about 35. Majority of the urban workers are engaged in secondary and tertiary activities like manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs, trade and commerce and other services. These economic activities are mainly governed by males rather than females, as most of them are masculine in nature. These disparities in WPR between the two sexes are also due to :

i. Prejudices against female mobility, their education, their low

status not only in family but also in society, frequent child births, limited job opportunities, limited desire on the part of the females themselves to participate in various economic activities; and

ii. Prejudices against female participation in work is another critical factor responsible for overall poor participation rate in work.

An in-depth study of male WPR in various urban centres of the district reveals that four urban centers viz. , Ashta (54.99%), Vita (52.32%), Mandhavnagar (51.41%) and Sangli (50.54%) have registered slightly higher WPR than the district average (50.06%) in 1991, whereas in 2001 three urban centers namely, Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Corporation area (50.7%), Budhgaon (49.9%) and Uran Islampur (50.8%) show lower WPR (males) than the district average (51.3%). Remaining semi-urbanized urban centers have moderate male WPR in 1991 and 2001.

As stated earlier proportion of females in WPR is considerably lower than that of males in all the urban centres of the district in both the decades (1991-2001). Among them Miraj town has the lowest female WPR i.e. 9.83%, whereas Ashta town has the highest rate of 33.91% in 1991. But in 2001, Manadur town registered the highest female WPR (37.4%) in the district. The case of Manadur town is altogether different than other urban centres in the study area. In 1991, the construction work of 'Chandoli Dam' on river Warana was in progress and thousands of male in-migrant workers were at the work, resulting only

15.85% female WPR. In 2001, when the construction work is over, majority of them are out-migrated. This migration pattern has changed the WPR of not only males but also females. By 2001, Manadur being one of the less urbanized town naturally contains a higher proportion of female workers in its population. The higher degree of urbanization of Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Area leads to the lowest female WPR (12.4%) in 2001. Madhavnagar, an another well urbanized industrial town also register a very low female WPR of 12.6%. Other urban centres in the district are semi-urbanized and hence, their female WPR is moderate in both the decades.

CONCLUSION:

The work participation rate (WPR) in urban areas for the district (Sangli) is 32.88 per cent and 34.03 per cent as against the state average of 32.32 per cent and 34 per cent in 1991 and 2001 respectively. The proportion of the male workers in urban areas is 50.06% (in 1991) and 51.46% (in 2001), whereas the female proportion as only 14.44% (in 1991) and 15.55% (in 2001). In 1991 Miraj town has the lowest WPR i.e. 29.45 % whereas Ashta town has the highest WPR of 44.70%. In 2001 Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Corporation Area has the lowest WPR of 32.1% and the highest of 45.6% is registered again in Ashta town followed by Manadur town (44.2%).

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