

A Study of Rural and Urban Distribution of Muslim Population in Solapur District

Altaf Suhani Shaikh, Dr. S. M. Mulani

Research scholar, D. S. G. College Mohol, District Solapur

Principal, Dr. Ganpatrao Deshmukh Mahavidyalya, Sangola

Article Info	ABSTRACT
Article History: Received: 18th Sep 2025 Accepted: 02nd Oct 2025 Published: 17th Oct 2025 Keywords: Muslim Population, Distribution, Rural and Urban, Sex Ratio.	This paper analyzes the rural and urban distribution of the Muslim population in Solapur District, Maharashtra, based on the 2011 Census. The study highlights that 60% of the Muslim population resides in urban areas, with Solapur North showing the highest concentration. The overall sex ratio stands at 970 females per 1,000 males, with urban areas (981) showing better gender balance than rural ones (954). The findings reveal that economic opportunities, migration, and infrastructural growth have shaped the demographic pattern, leading to an urban-centric settlement trend among the Muslim community in Solapur District.

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How to Cite: Shaikh, A. S., & Mulani, S. M. (2025). A Study of Rural and Urban Distribution of Muslim Population in Solapur District. IIP: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal (IIPIMRJ), 2(IV), 271–276.

Introduction:

Solapur district, located in the state of Maharashtra, has a diverse demographic composition, with the Muslim population playing a significant role in its socio-economic and cultural landscape. Understanding the rural and urban distribution of the Muslim population in the district is essential for analyzing settlement patterns, livelihood opportunities, and access to resources. The metropolitan areas, particularly Solapur city, serve as economic hubs, attracting a significant portion of the Muslim population engaged in trade, small businesses, and industrial work. In contrast, rural areas depict a different demographic scenario, where the Muslim community is involved in agriculture, livestock rearing, and traditional occupations. Historical migration patterns, economic opportunities, and infrastructural development influence the distribution of the Muslim population across rural and urban settings.

This study aims to explore the spatial distribution of the Muslim population in Solapur district, comparing the density, growth trends, and socio-economic conditions between rural and urban areas. It will also analyze factors such as employment patterns, literacy rates, and living standards to understand the variations in population distribution. The findings of this study will contribute to a better understanding of demographic trends and policy planning for equitable development in the region.

Objectives:

To study the Rural and Urban Distribution of the Muslim Population in Solapur District.

Study Area:

Solapur district is located in the southern part of Maharashtra. The geographical location of Solapur district is one hundred seventy 10' to one hundred eighty 32' North latitude and 740 forty two' to 760 15' East longitude. The overall area of Solapur district is 14895 sq. km. Solapur district consists of eleven talukas, wherein North Solapur, South Solapur, Akkalkot, Barshi, Mangalvedha, Pandharpur, Sangola, Malshiras, Mohol, Madha, and Karmala are the talukas. Additionally, the average height of the Solapur district is 458 meters above sea level. Solapur district is bounded by Ahmednagar district to the north, Dharashiv in the northeast, Karnataka state to the southeast, Sangli in the southwest, Satara in the west and Pune district to the northwest.

Population Distribution:

In this table provides detailed demographic data of Solapur District Tehsil wise Muslim Rural Urban and Male Female population 2011," provides a comprehensive demographic breakdown of the Muslim population in each tehsil of Solapur District for the year 2011, detailing their total numbers, as well as their distribution across rural and urban areas, further segmented by gender.

Table No .1

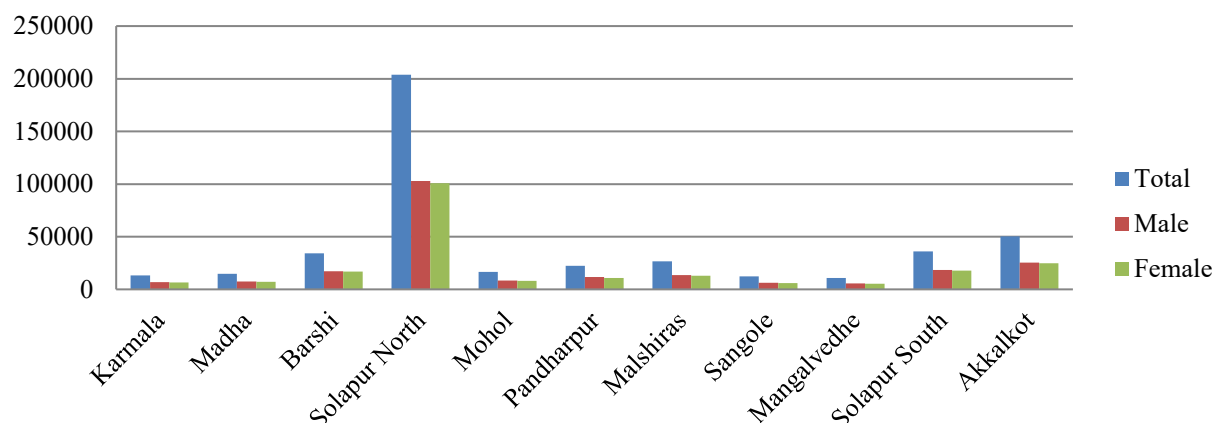
SOLAPUR DISTRICT RURAL - URBAN MUSLIM POPULATION - 2011

Tahsil	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Karmala	13238	6814	6424	8666	4468	4198	4572	2346	2226
Madha	14873	7590	7283	11303	5789	5514	3570	1801	1769
Barshi	34135	17292	16843	14901	7610	7291	19234	9682	9552
Solapur Nort	203784	102953	100831	7359	3771	3588	196425	99182	97243
Mohol	16573	8529	8044	16573	8529	8044	0	0	0
Pandharpur	22450	11592	10858	15204	7892	7312	7246	3700	3546
Malshiras	26591	13610	12981	17219	8878	8341	9372	4732	4640
Sangole	12448	6352	6096	8329	4227	4102	4119	2125	1994
Mangalvedh	10796	5504	5292	7962	4082	3880	2834	1422	1412
Solapur Sou	36042	18330	17712	36042	18330	17712	0	0	0
Akkalkot	50324	25390	24934	33083	16802	16281	17241	8588	8653
Solapur Dis	441254	223956	217298	176641	90378	86263	264613	133578	131035

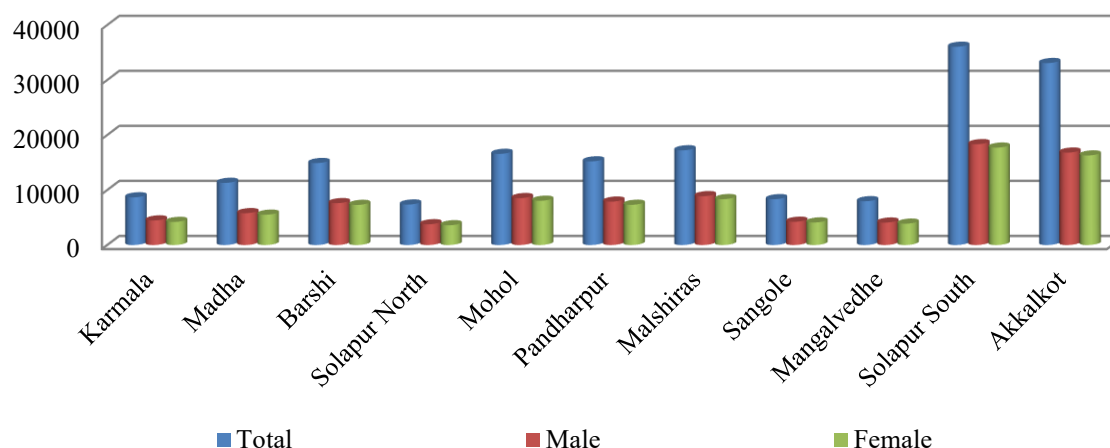
Source: Solapur District Census Handbook 2011.

The total Muslim population for Solapur District in 2011 was 441,254, comprising 223,956 males and 217,298 females, indicating a slight male majority. A significant portion of this population, 264,613 individuals (133,578 males and 131,035 females), resided in urban areas, while 176,641 (90,378 males and 86,263 females) lived in rural areas, confirming a higher urban concentration for the Muslim community in the district. Examining the individual tehsils, Solapur North stands out with the largest Muslim population of 203,784, overwhelmingly concentrated in urban areas (196,425), reflecting its status as a major urban center. Other tehsils with substantial Muslim populations include Akkalkot (50,324 total), Barshi (34,135 total), and Solapur South (36,042 total). Interestingly, Mohol and Solapur South tehsils show their entire Muslim population as rural (16,573 and 36,042, respectively), with no recorded urban Muslim residents, highlighting purely rural settlement patterns in these specific areas.

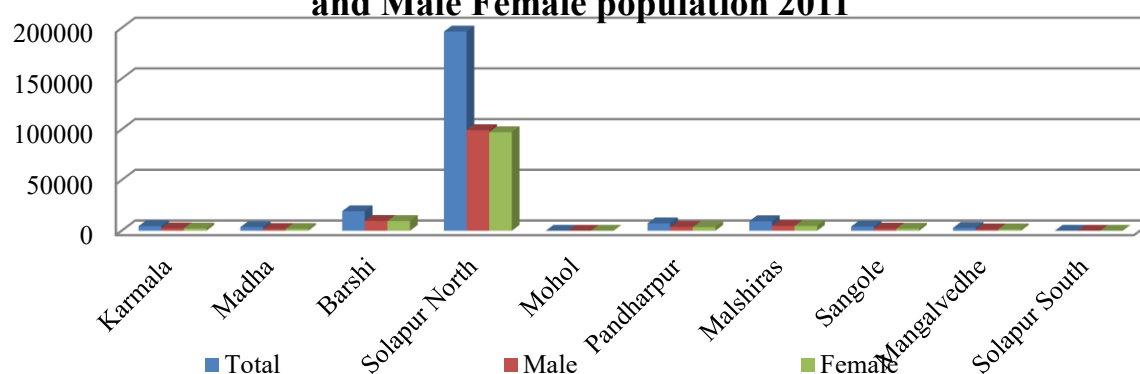
Graph No. 1 Solapur district Tehsil wise Muslim Male Female population 2011



Graph No. 2 Solapur district Tehsil wise Muslim Rural Male Female population 2011



Graph No. 3 Solapur district Tehsil wise Muslim Rural Urban and Male Female population 2011



Conversely, tehsils like Karmala, Madha, Pandharpur, Malshiras, Sangole, and Mangalvedhe display a mixed distribution, with varying proportions of rural and urban Muslim populations. Across almost all tehsils and categories (total, rural, urban), the number of Muslim males generally exceeds that of females, consistent with broader demographic trends observed in

the region, with Akkalkot's urban Muslim population being a notable exception where females (8,653) slightly outnumber males (8,588).

Sex Ratio Analysis:

This table provides a detailed breakdown of the **Muslim sex ratio in Solapur District** based on the 2011 Census. The sex ratio is a key demographic metric that calculates the number of females for every 1000 males in a given population. The Total Sex Ratio for Solapur District is 970. This means that for every 1000 Muslim males, there are 970 females. This is considered a relatively balanced gender ratio. The Urban Sex Ratio (981) for the district is higher than the Rural Sex Ratio (954). This suggests that urban areas, on average, have a more equitable gender distribution than rural areas. Akkalkot: This tahsil stands out with the highest sex ratios. Its Total Sex Ratio is 982, and its Urban Sex Ratio is 1008. A ratio over 1000 is significant because it indicates a female surplus, meaning there are more females than males in the urban Muslim population of Akkalkot. This is a very rare and positive demographic indicator. Barshi, Solapur North, and Mangalvedhe: These tahsils also show a very high urban sex ratio (987, 980, and 993, respectively), further supporting the general trend of a more balanced gender distribution in urban settings. Pandharpur: This tahsil has the lowest sex ratio in the district, with a Total Sex Ratio of 937. Its rural sex ratio is particularly low at 927. This suggests a more significant gender imbalance in this area compared to others. Mohol and Solapur South: These two tahsils show a unique characteristic. Their Urban Sex Ratio is 0, and their Total Sex Ratio is identical to their Rural Sex Ratio (943 and 966, respectively). This indicates that the Muslim population in these specific tahsils is entirely rural, with no one living in urban areas, a fact that was also reflected in the previous population data table.

Table No.2
SOLAPUR DISTRICT MUSLIM RURAL- URBAN SEX RATIO -2011

Tahasil	Total Sex Ratio	Rural Sex Ratio	Urban Sex Ratio
Karmala	943	940	949
Madha	960	952	982
Barshi	974	958	987
Solapur North	979	951	980
Mohol	943	943	0
Pandharpur	937	927	958
Malshiras	954	940	981
Sangole	960	970	938
Mangalvedhe	961	951	993
Solapur South	966	966	0
Akkalkot	982	969	1008
Solapur District	970	954	981

Source - Census of India 2011

In summary, the table provides valuable insights into the demographic patterns of the Muslim community in Solapur District. While the overall sex ratio is healthy, there is a clear distinction between urban and rural areas, with urban centers consistently showing a more favorable gender balance. The data for individual tahsils like Akkalkot and Pandharpur highlights specific local variations that can be used for more targeted social and developmental planning.

Conclusion:

Key findings about the **Muslim population in Solapur District** based on the 2011 Census data. Here's a breakdown of each point: **Urban Concentration:** The first point highlights that the majority of the Muslim population in Solapur District lives in **urban areas**, particularly concentrated in **Solapur North**. This suggests that urban centers are economic and social hubs that attract this community. The absence of an urban Muslim population in rural tahsils like Mohol and Solapur South further emphasizes this urban-centric distribution. **Gender Balance:** The total sex ratio of **970 females per 1,000 males** indicates a relatively balanced gender ratio within the community. While a perfect balance would be 1000, a ratio of 970 is considered healthy and falls within the typical range for many populations in India. **Urban-Rural Disparity in Sex Ratio:** The third point shows that the **urban sex ratio (981)** is higher than the **rural sex ratio (954)**. This suggests that the gender balance is better in urban settings. This could be due to various factors, such as better access to healthcare, education, and social awareness in urban areas, which might contribute to improved female survival rates and a more balanced population. **Population Distribution:** The final point quantifies the urban dominance by stating that **60%** of the Muslim population resides in urban areas, while only **40%** lives in rural areas. This statistic reinforces the initial observation that the community is predominantly urban.

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