

CONCENTRATION INDEX OF URBAN POPULATION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
Article History: Received: 18th Sep 2025 Accepted: 02nd Oct 2025 Published: 17th Oct 2025 Keywords: Population, Urban Population, Concentration index	In this research paper focus on concentration of urban population in Solapur district and its related factors. Solapur district is known as one of the major districts in Maharashtra. Solapur's district identity lies in its tourism, industries (cloth mills, bidi industry) etc. Due to the lack of modern amenities and facilities required for urbanization, the process in Solapur district is very slow compared to some major district of Maharashtra.

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Introduction

One of the characteristics of the 21st century, when studied from the perspective of urban geography, is that rapid population growth is being driven primarily by people moving to cities. Such growth is more common in developing countries, where rural population are attracted to urban areas. However, this direction of population concentration is not uniform everywhere.

Urbanisation is a process associated with the involvement of people in non agricultural occupations, in which the occupations of people are more than those associated with the agricultural sector. Which manifests itself in secondary and tertiary occupations in large urban areas. Which begins with changes in the demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental aspects of that city. (Misra, 1978: 16)

Urbanisation is the increase in the total population and area of the city. It is an ongoing, complex and evolving process. Day by day change and increase in urbanization is seen in the world. Rural population is moving towards the urban areas, and the urban population is increasing.

Maharashtra is the third largest state in India in terms of urban population as per 2011 data. 45.2% of the total population of Maharashtra lives in urban areas. Solapur district covers 4.8% of the total area of Maharashtra state and has a total of 11 tahasil. The shape of the district is irregular.

Due to the lack of modern amenities and facilities required for urbanization, the process in Solapur district is very slow compared to some major district of Maharashtra. With the increasing urban population, the environmental quality of urban population is deteriorating. This research focuses on the concentration of urban population in the district and its related factors.

Keywords

Concentration index, Urban population

Objective

To calculate and analysis tahasil wise location quotient of urban population in Solapur district.

Data Source and Research Methodology

Data obtained from secondary sources has been used for this research paper. This information is compiled from Solapur District Census Handbook 2001 and 2011.

Formula:-

$$LC = P_i \div A_i$$

LC = Location Quotient

P_i = Increasing Population between Two Decades

A_i = Area of Tahshil

Study Area

Solapur is considered as a district in western Maharashtra. The district is situated in the valley of river Bhima, Nira and Sina. The district extends from 17°10' to 18°32' North latitude and 74°42' to 76°15' East longitude and has an area of 14895 square kilometer. The district occupies 4.84% of the total area of the state.

Concentration of Urban Population

Location quotient divided into three categories index above 800 as high concentration, 400 to 800 as moderate concentration, below 400 as low concentration of urban population.

High Concentration

Malshiras tahasil recorded the index more than 800 and the concentration of population is higher in this tahasil compare to their area than other part of district.

2001 census did not have urban population but 2011 census shows urban population because three villages (Akluj, Sangramnagar, Natepute) in Malshiras thashil have emerged as urban areas. Therefore, compared to 2001, there is an increase in urbanization in Malshiras tahasil in 2011.

Akluj has a historical background. Initially it was a place of cotton trade. This place has become a center of tourism due to its proximity to Nira river, Yadas's Fort (Shivishrutsti Fort), surrounding green area. Akluj was connected to other place by road due to the Satara-Latur state highway. Regional transport office of state government of Maharashtra has started at this place. Due to the above various reasons, Akluj has emerged as an urban region.

Sangramnagar is a place near Akluj. With the development of Akluj area Sangramnagar has also emerged as a town. A weekly market is held in large numbers at Natepute, so the area has been urbanized due to the market place.

Tehsil wise location quotient of the concentration of urban population is shown on

table no.1

Name of Tahasil	Urban Population 2001(A)	Urban Population 2011(B)	Pi (B-A)	Area in Sq.Km	Location Quotient
Karmala	21928	23199	1271	4.74	268.14
Madha	22777	22463	-314	6.48	-48.45
Barshi	104785	118722	13937	36.26	384.36
Solapur North	872478	951558	79080	178.57	442.85
Mohol	0	0	0	0	0
Pandharpur	91379	98923	7544	17.28	436.57
Malshiras	0	64401	64401	41.77	1541.80
Sangole	28116	34321	6205	68.82	90.16
Mangalvedha	21706	21824	118	1.25	94.4
Soalpur South	0	0	0	0	0
Akkalkot	62115	63680	1565	7.92	197.60

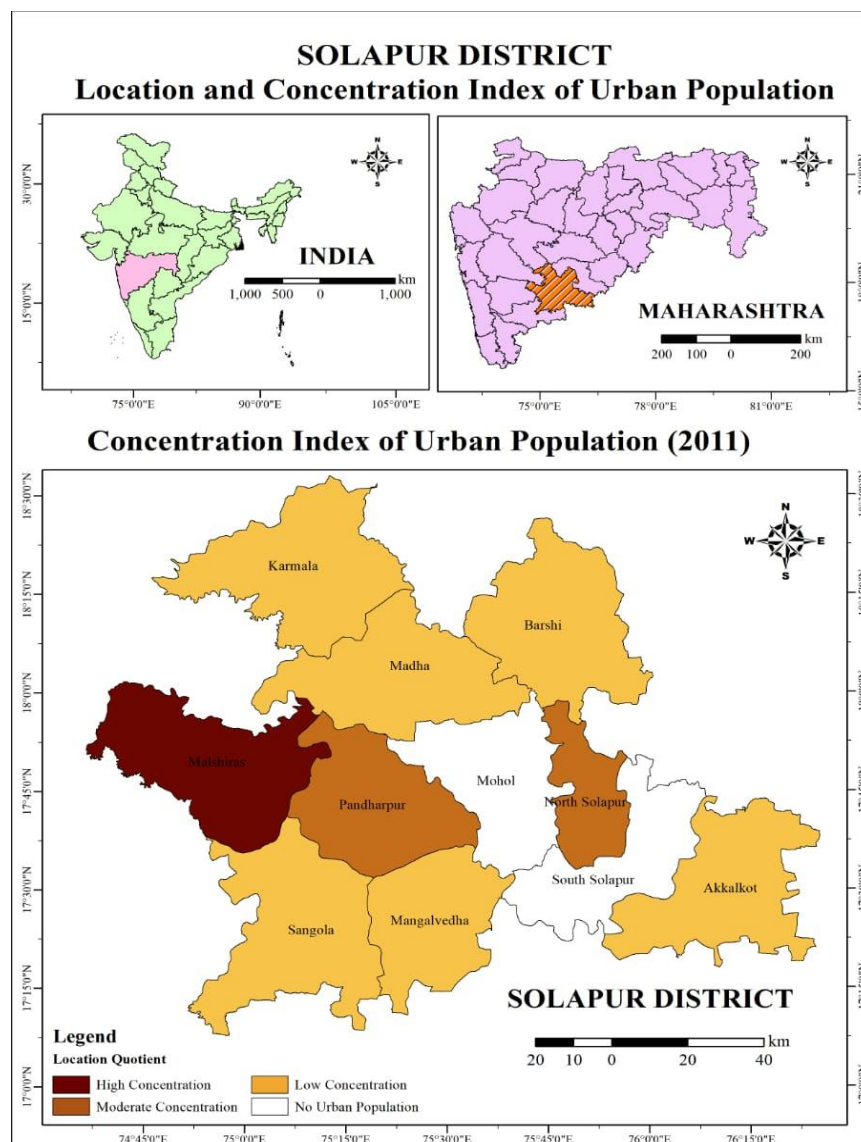
Source- Calculated by Author

Moderate Concentration

Two place namely North Solapur and Pandharpur some in this group. North Solapur is the main administrative center of Solapur District and is known as Solapur city. Textile industry, Bidi industry, main railway station of the district, National Highway No 65 (Pune – Machalipattanam), National Highway No 13 (Solapur- Manglor), National Highway No-211 (Solapur- Dule) pass through this city. It has a university established for a district which is the only example in the country. Due to this, Solapur has become a commercial, industrial, administrative and educational place and the urban population is increasing.

Pandharpur is a city situated on the banks of river Bhima, which is the land of Marathi saints dedicated to the Bhakti Sampradaya. The 12th century Yadav era temple is a place of faith not only in Maharashtra but also in other states. Pandharpur is connected to other cities by road and rail/ In the year 1858, the municipality was established at this place. Urbanisation is increasing here due to religious tourism and the development of other economic activity.

Fig no.1



Low Concentration

Barshi, Karmala, Akkalkot, Mangalvedha, Sangole tahasil found concentration between below 400. Mainly, in Madha tahasil shows a decline in urban population. People of this area migrated to other cities for employment.

Conclusions And Suggestion

The researcher found that there is a difference between urban area and urban population in each tahasil. The lowest urban population concentration was observed in Madha tahasil. Malshiras tahasil saw the highest increase in urban population in 2011 as compared to 2001 due to the creation of three new towns.

Road transport has been developed to all the urban areas of Solapur district, but due to lack of industrial development, lack of rail transport in some parts the urban population is not increasing. Solapur district is known for its low rainfall. Lack of sufficient water does not bring new industries to urban areas, thus the population migrates due to uncertainty of employment.

Proper implementation of government policies, proper development of tourism sector, adequate water supply, initiation of new industries, development of roads, railways and air transport will accelerate the urbanization of Solapur district.

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