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Study of Demographic Aspect of B.Com. and B.A.B.Ed. Students of Vidya Prabodhini College, Parvari-Goa: A Geographical Analysis (2023-24)

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Abstract

The demographic profile of students plays a crucial role in shaping institutional policies, academic offerings, and resource allocation. This study examines the demographic aspects of students enrolled in the B.Com. and B.A.B.Ed. programs at Vidya Prabodhini College, Parvari-Goa, for the academic year 2023-2024, with a focus on socio-cultural, religious, and geographical factors. The research provides insights into the gender composition, socio-cultural and religious diversity, and admission patterns of these student populations. Additionally, a geographical analysis is included to identify the spatial distribution of students, their preferences for specific academic programs, and the factors influencing their enrollment. The findings highlight gender imbalances, with a notably higher number of female students in the B.A.B.Ed. program, and diverse religious compositions in the B.Com. program. Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of understanding demographic factors for effective planning, curriculum development, and community engagement at the institutional level. By mapping these demographic aspects, Vidya Prabodhini College can better address the diverse needs of its students and ensure a more inclusive educational environment.

Keywords: Demography, Gender composition, Planning and Development

Introduction

Demographic mapping is an essential tool for understanding the diversity and needs of the student population within an educational institution. Vidya Prabodhini College, located in Parvari, Goa, serves a diverse student body enrolled in various academic programs, including the Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.) and Bachelor of Arts in Education (B.A.B.Ed.) programs. Understanding the socio-cultural, religious, and geographical makeup of the students enrolled in these programs is crucial for the college's strategic planning, resource allocation, and curriculum development. This study explores the demographic aspects of the B.Com. and B.A.B.Ed. students for the academic year 2023-2024, with a particular focus on gender, socio-cultural background, religious composition, and geographical distribution. The findings will provide insights that can guide the college in fostering a more inclusive, responsive, and effective learning environment.

Aim and Objective:

The central focus of this study involves the investigation of the demographic aspects of students profiles during the academic year 2023-2024. The research endeavors to achieve the following objectives:

1. Analyze the social, cultural, economic, and educational characteristics of students enrolled in both B.A.B.E. D and B. Com programs.
2. Devise a comprehensive student well-being strategy that addresses educational and financial support requirements.

Study Area

The selected study area for this dissertation encompasses Prabodhan Education Society's Vidya Prabodhini College of Commerce, Education, Computer, and Management, situated in the tranquil locale of Alto-Parvari within Bardez-Goa. This educational institution is part of the expansive Prabodhan Education Society complex, which houses educational establishments ranging from pre-primary to college level. Nestled approximately 5 km away from the vibrant capital city of Goa, Panaji, the college is positioned at the geographical coordinates of 15° 31 '37.84 " North Latitude and 73° 49' 52.16" East Longitude. Currently, the college offers both commerce and education programs, accommodating a student body of 360 and 400, respectively. Vidya Prabodhini College stands out as one of the more recent additions to the academic landscape of Goa, distinguished as the pioneer in integrated B.A.B.Ed. programs.

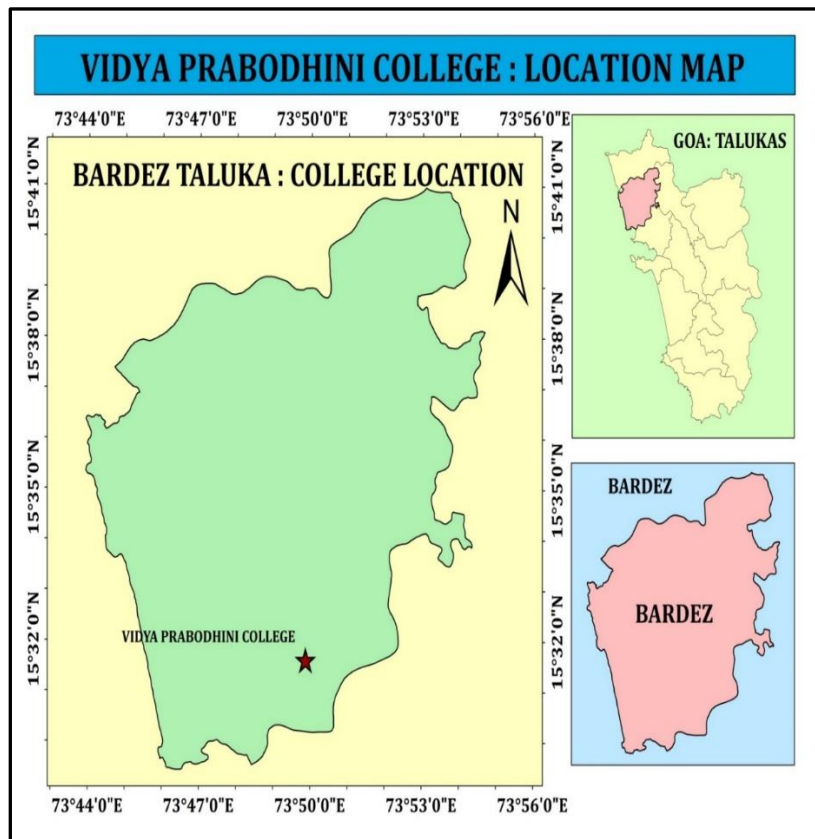


Fig. 1: Geo-Spatial Mapping of B.A.B.Ed. students

Methodology

This research utilized both quantitative and qualitative approaches to gather demographic data. Admission records, including gender, caste, religion, and distance from the college, were analyzed to provide a comprehensive demographic profile of the students. The study focused on students enrolled in the B.Com. and B.A.B.Ed. programs for the 2023-2024 academic year. Data was presented through tables and bar graphs to highlight key aspects of gender composition, social and religious status, and geographical distribution.

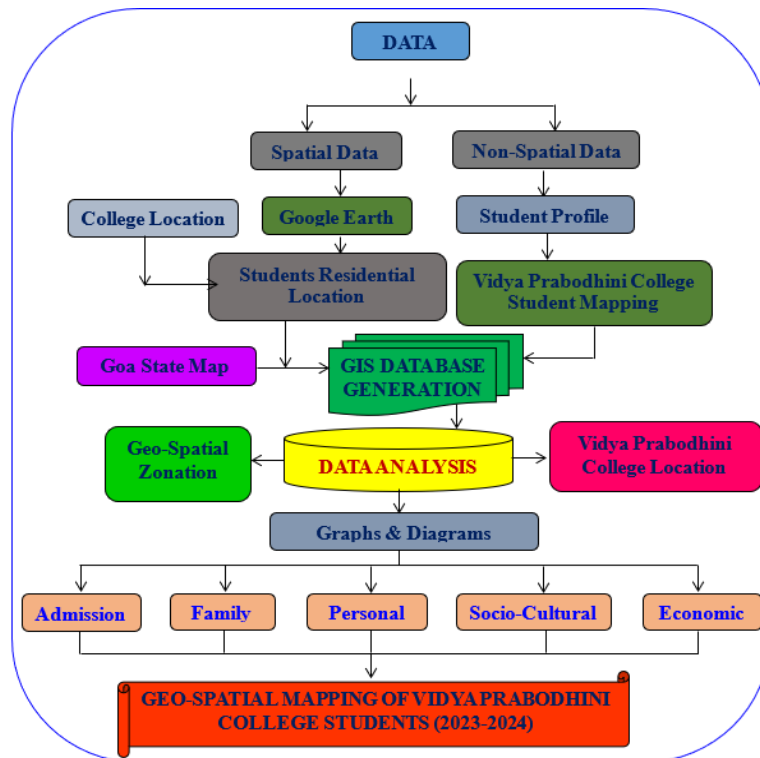


Fig. 2: Geo-Spatial Mapping of B.A.B.Ed. students

Study of Demographic Scenario

1. Admission Scenario

The college's admission scenario reflects the distribution of students across various categories. In the B.Com. program, there were 120 seats allotted for F.Y.B.Com., 122 for S.Y.B.Com., and 120 for T.Y.B.Com. The total number of admitted students in B.Com. was 356, out of 362 available seats, indicating a near-full enrollment. For the B.A.B.Ed. program, 400 seats were allotted, and 386 students were admitted across F.Y.B.A.B.Ed., S.Y.B.A.B.Ed., and T.Y.B.A.B.Ed. levels, showing a slightly lower fill rate compared to the B.Com. program. The admission patterns indicate a strong demand for both programs, with B.A.B.Ed. experiencing some seat vacancies.

Table 1: Admission Status of Vidya Prabodhini students (2023-24)

SR. NO.	CLASS	ALLOTTED SEATS	ADMITTED SEATS
1	F.Y.B.Com.	120	120
2	S.Y.B.Com.	122	122
3	T.Y.B.Com.	120	114
TOTAL		362	356
1	F.Y.B.A.B.Ed.	100	100
2	S.Y.B.A.B.Ed.	100	100
3	T.Y.B.A.B.Ed.	100	96
4	Fo.Y.B.A.B.Ed.	100	90
TOTAL		400	386

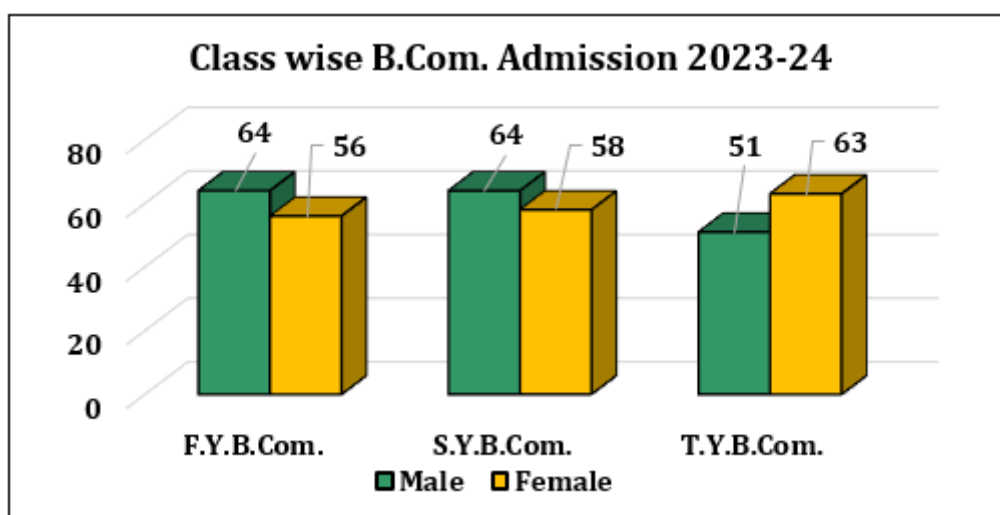


Fig 3: Bar graph of B. Com Admission Scenario (2023-24)

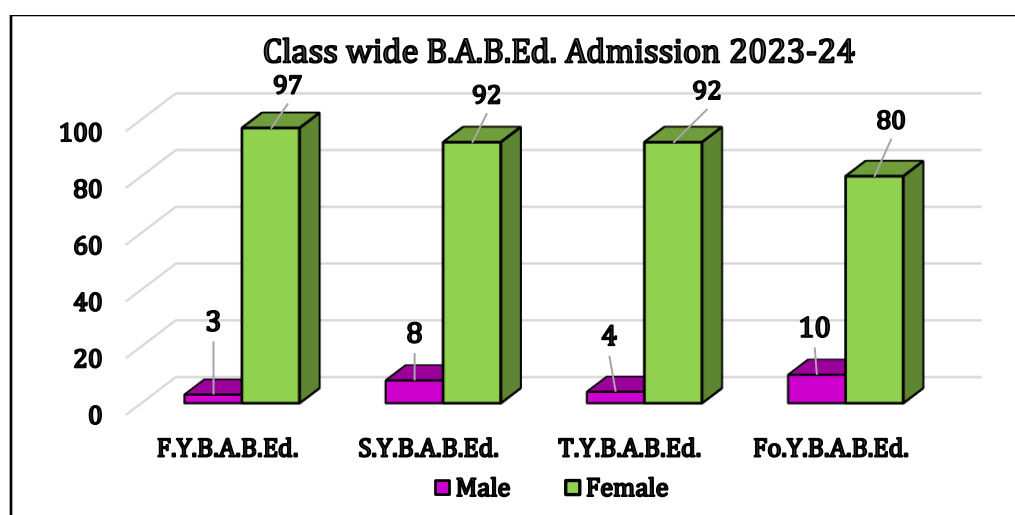


Fig 4: Bar Graph of B.A.B.Ed. Admission Scenario (2023-24)

2. Socio-Cultural and Religious Profile

The socio-cultural and religious profiles of the students provide a deeper understanding of their backgrounds and the diversity within the student body. The gender composition of the B.A.B.Ed. students shows a marked gender imbalance, with

a higher proportion of female students. This trend is consistent with the traditional view that teaching, particularly in the primary and secondary education sectors, is more suited to women. Among the 386 B.A.B.Ed. students, there are significantly more female students than male students, reflecting broader societal trends and interests in the profession.

In contrast, the B.Com. program shows a more balanced gender composition, with slight variations across categories. The religious diversity in the B.Com. program is also noteworthy. Hindu students represent the largest group (317 students), followed by Muslims (35 students) and Christians (4 students). The B.A.B.Ed. program, though not explicitly analyzed in terms of religious diversity in this section, shows a similar pattern of religious composition.

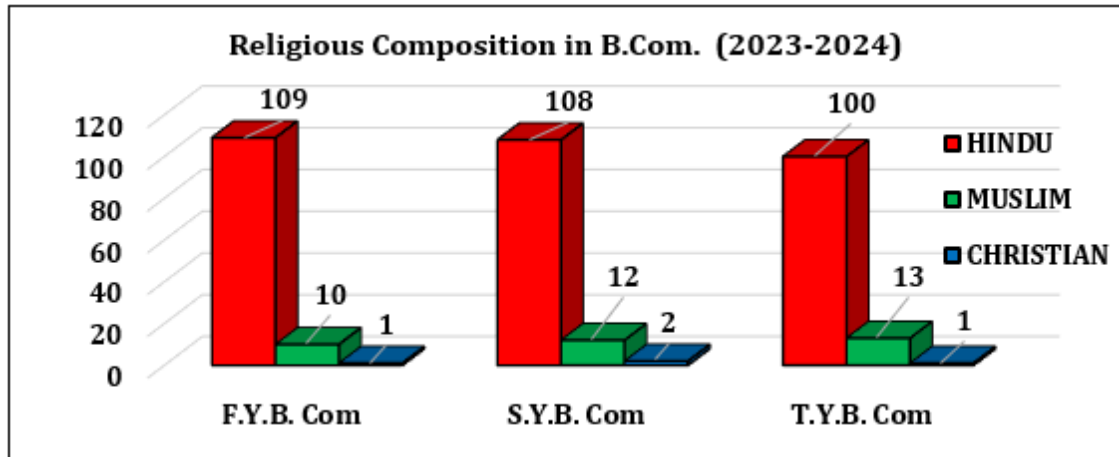


Fig 5: Religious Composition of B.Com. students

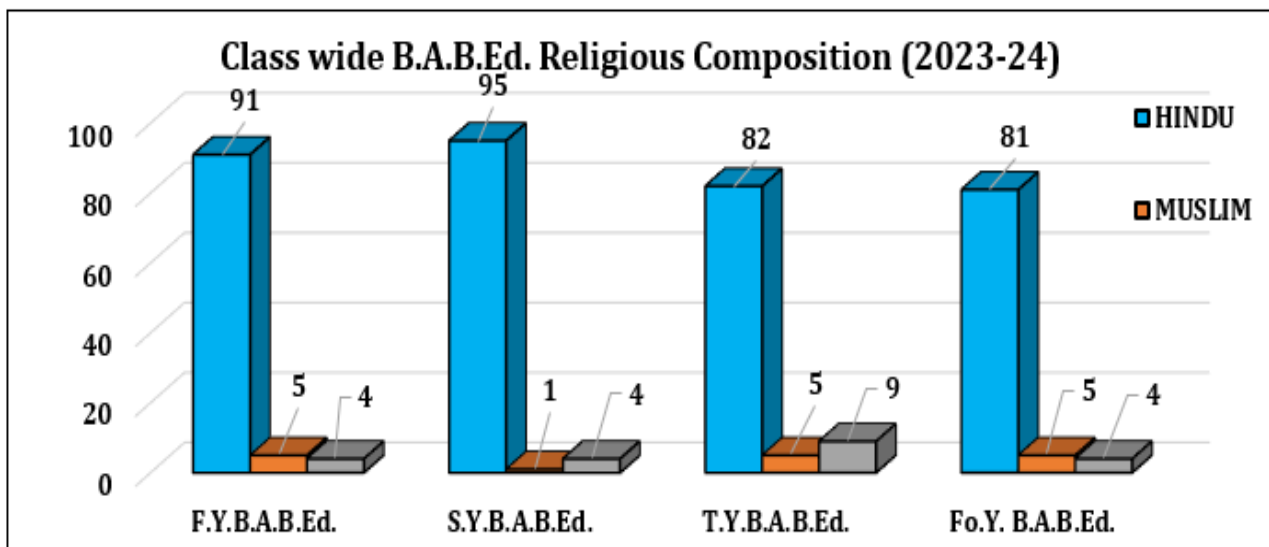


Fig 6: Religious Composition of B.A.B.Ed. students

3. Social and Religious Status of B.Com. Students

The social and religious composition of the B.Com. students provides insights into the diverse backgrounds of the student body. The breakdown of admissions by category shows that the majority of students in the B.Com. program belong to the general category, with significant numbers also from OBC, SC, and ST categories. Additionally, the religious composition reveals that the vast majority of B.Com. students are Hindu, followed by Muslims, and a small proportion of Christians. This demographic information is essential for understanding the social dynamics within the college and the need for targeted support services for different groups.

4. Geo-Spatial Distribution

The geographical analysis reveals significant differences in the spatial distribution of students across the two programs. For the B.Com. program, a majority of students (approximately 78%) come from areas within 5 km of the college, indicating that the program primarily serves the local population. The remaining students are distributed across zones ranging from 5 km to 10 km (18%) and beyond (2%). The B.A.B.Ed. program, on the other hand, attracts students from a wider geographical area, with many traveling from distances greater than 10 km. This is consistent with the observation that students seeking specialized education, such as B.A.B.Ed., are willing to travel farther to attend institutions offering such programs.

Discussion and Analysis

The demographic analysis of Vidya Prabodhini College's student body for the academic year 2023-2024 reveals several important patterns:

Gender Imbalance in B.A.B.Ed.: The B.A.B.Ed. program has a noticeable gender imbalance, with female students outnumbering male students. This may reflect societal attitudes towards teaching as a female-dominated profession, particularly in the early education sector. Addressing this imbalance and encouraging male students to enter the teaching profession could be a focus of future outreach and awareness programs.

Religious Diversity in B.Com.: The B.Com. program reflects the religious diversity of the region, with Hindu students making up the majority, followed by a smaller number of Muslim and Christian students. The college must ensure that its programs, services, and environment are inclusive of all religious backgrounds.

Geographical Distribution: The geographical distribution of students in both programs demonstrates the local nature of the B.Com. program and the wider regional appeal of the B.A.B.Ed. program. The college can use this information to optimize resources, such as transportation services for students from distant areas, and to make strategic decisions regarding the expansion of educational services.

Table 2: B.A.B.Ed. Zonation Mapping (2023-24)

Distance Zones	Area	No. of Students	Percentage
< 5Km	78.48	58	17.58
5 TO 10 Km	186.33	70	21.21
10 TO 20 Km	567.3	91	27.58
20 TO 30 Km	581.11	52	15.76
30 TO 40 Km	584.46	27	8.18
>40 Km	1629.75	32	9.70
TOTAL	3627.43	330	100.00

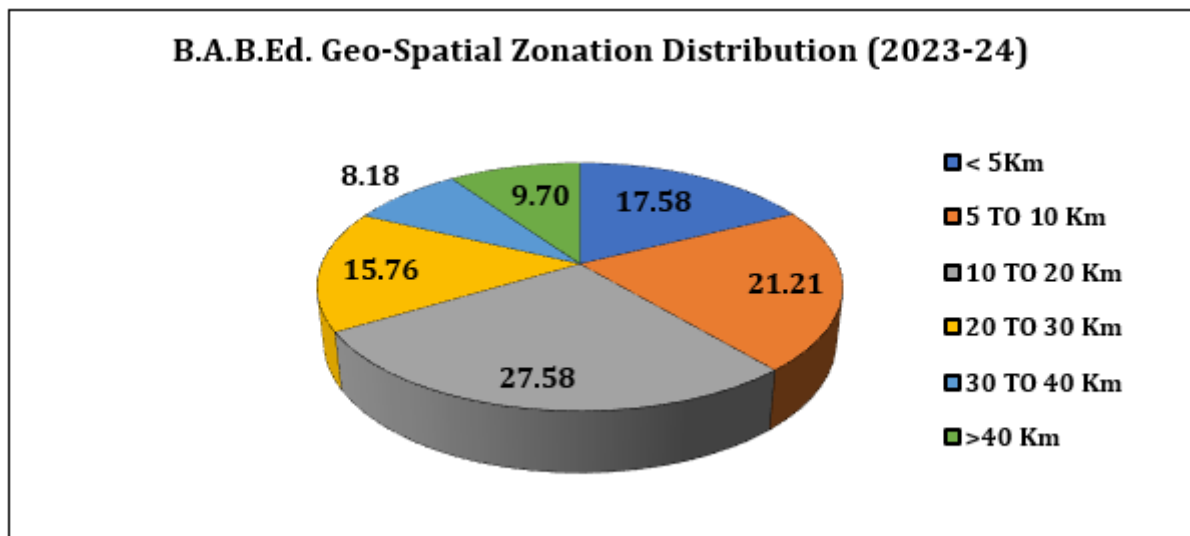


Fig. 7: Pie Diagram of B.A.B.Ed. Students Zonation

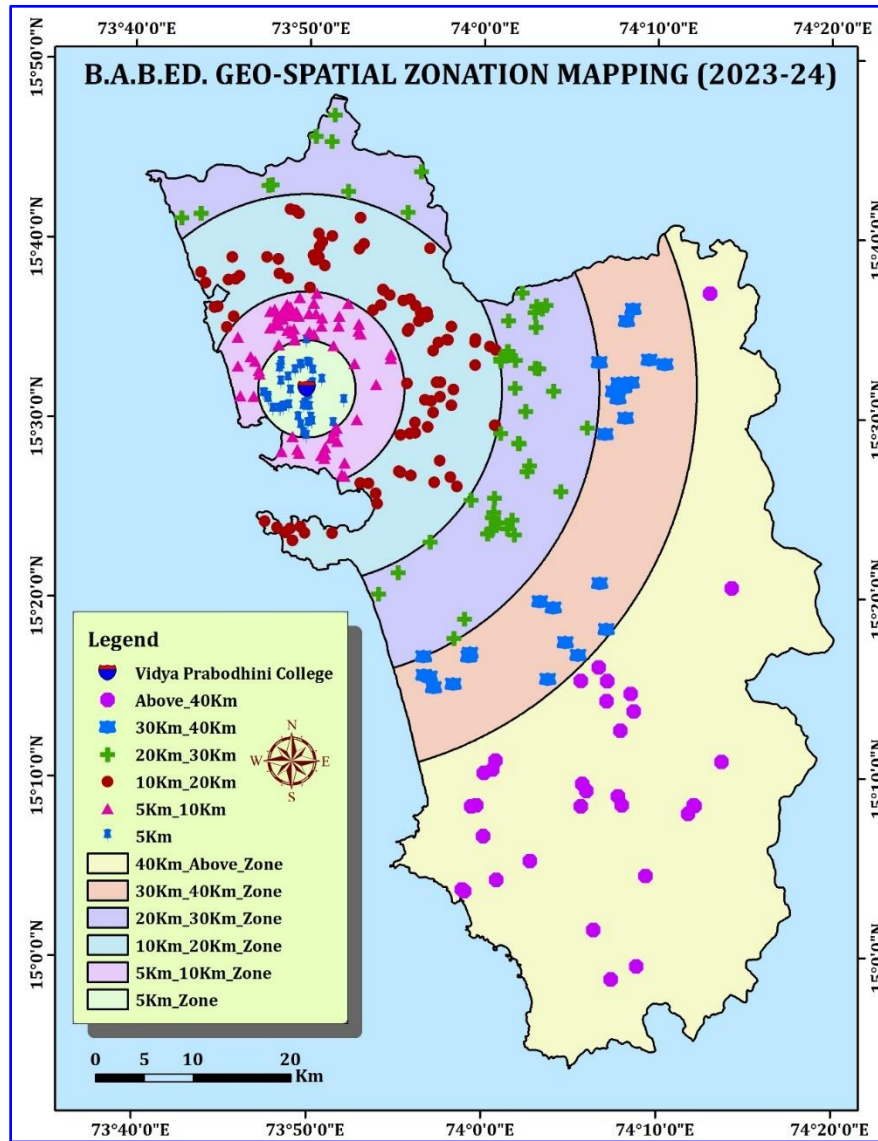


Fig. 8: Pie Diagram of B.A.B.Ed. Students Zonation

Table 3: B.Com. Students Geo-Spatial Zonation Mapping

Distance Zones	Area	No. of Students	Percentage
< 5Km	78.48	228	78.62
5 TO 10 Km	186.33	54	18.62
10 TO 20 Km	567.3	4	1.38
20 TO 30 Km	581.11	4	1.38
30 TO 40 Km	584.46	0	0.00
>40 Km	1629.75	0	0.00
TOTAL	3627.43	290	100.00

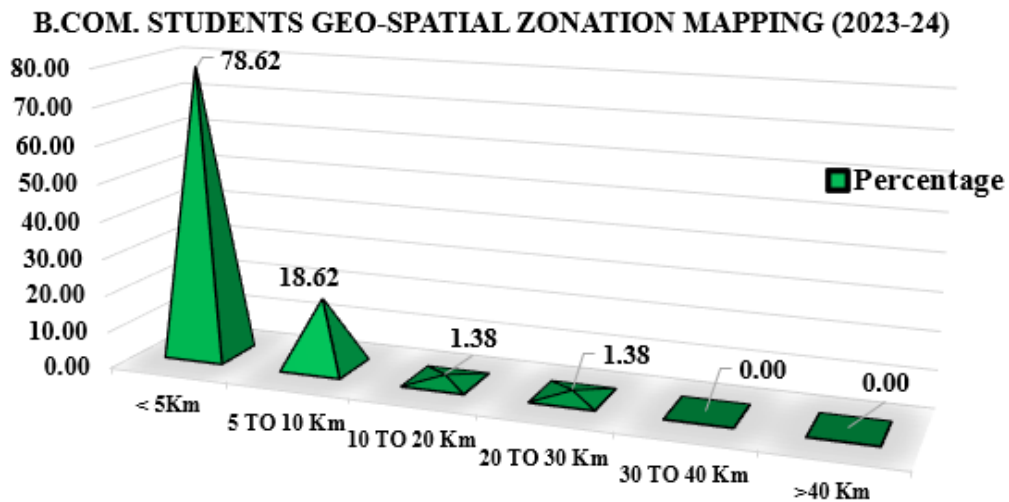


Fig. 9: Pyramid Diagram of B. Com Students Mapping

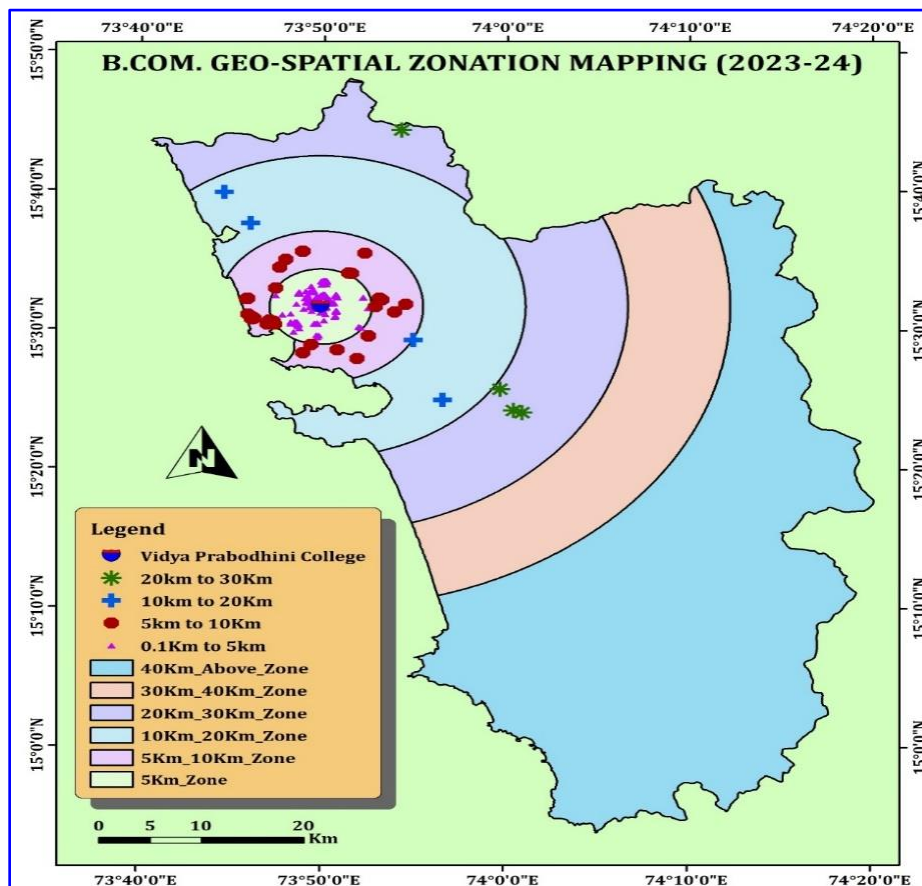


Fig. 10: Geo-Spatial Zonation Mapping of B. Com Students

Conclusion

The demographic analysis of the B.Com. and B.A.B.Ed. students at Vidya Prabodhini College provides valuable insights into the gender, socio-cultural, religious, and geographical characteristics of the student population. Understanding these factors is crucial for the college to effectively tailor its educational services and ensure an inclusive and supportive environment for all students. By considering these demographic aspects in future planning, the college can foster greater academic success, community engagement, and institutional growth, while addressing the diverse needs of its students. This study highlights the importance of demographic mapping as a tool for informed decision-making in educational institutions.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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