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Geographical Study of changes in occupation structure of Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra

Dr. Meena Balasaheb Potdar

Abstract

Occupational structure refers to the distribution of working population in different economic sector in particular regions. Occupational structure reflects the economical status of the region. It gives ideas of the resource utilization and constraints in the economical development. Therefore study of occupational structure is play important role in the assessment of economy of any region. Sindhudurg is Fastly developing as tourist hub due to unique features, growing services for tourism and nearest location of Goa. But to assess the proper development here attempt has been made to assess occupational structure of Sindhudurg district. The main objective of this research article is to assess spatio temporal changes in occupational structure of Sindhudurg district and to assess the economical status of district. This district shows very complex structure of economy. Though people are engaged in primary activities but they also do tertiary activities. Even there is scope for mining and fishery therefore non typical primary activities also people do they engaged in tertiary activities and secondary activities with primary activities. But tertiary activities are growing fast but this growth is unorganized and unplanned this should organized and planned.

Keywords: *Occupational Structure, Economic Development, Primary Activities, Secondary Activities, Tertiary Activities, Tourism Industry, Spatio-Temporal Change, Workforce Distribution, Sindhudurg District*

Introduction

The census of India (1971) defined "occupation as the name of the function, which a person performs by engaging himself in some gainful activity". It indicates the earners nature of work. The term occupation structure is often used in a broader sense. It indicates an unitary relationship of three occupational components of the working population as primary, secondary and tertiary activity. They form functional features of the town.

Occupational structure refers to the distribution of working population across different economic sectors or professions at any region. It highlights how the workforce is divided among primary, secondary, and tertiary industries, and serves as a key indicator of a region's socio-economic development. How the economy of any country is decide on in which sector more population is working. The primary activities are known for extraction and production of primary products or raw materials. This sector is basically working on resources available in the region and to provide that resources for consumption or for secondary activities. Secondary activities include process manufacturing and construction activities. Basically this sector use the raw materials extracted by primary activities and making finished products for the export and utilization. Tertiary activities are service based activities which are mostly supporting activities for primary and secondary activities but in these activities now days some industries became prominent in the world like IT industry, tourism industry etc. Urbanization has brought major changes to the occupation structure. Primarily the restructuring of occupation due to shift of workers from agricultural to non - agricultural sector such as industry, trade, commerce, transport, storage and communicational and other services.

Tourism industry has brought major changes in the occupational structure. Development of these industry shifts workers from mostly primary and secondary sector to tertiary sector highlights those changes. This field promotes trade, commerce, transportation and communication services.

Prominent economical activity of any country will decided the level of development at the particular country. Underdeveloped country is having more population engaged in primary activities and developing countries are also having more population engaged in primary activities but little more than underdeveloped in secondary activities. But in developed countries more population engaged in secondary activities and tertiary activities. Therefore to assess the level of development the assessment of occupational structure of the region is necessary. In Maharashtra we are having 720 kms long coastal line which is an attraction for tourist. In which Sindhudurg district is near to Goa and on the border of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa and having variety and unique places therefore in all coastal district this attracts more number of tourists.

Therefore here attempt has been made to assess occupation structure of Sindhudurg district to assess the economical development of Sindhudurg district.

Objectives

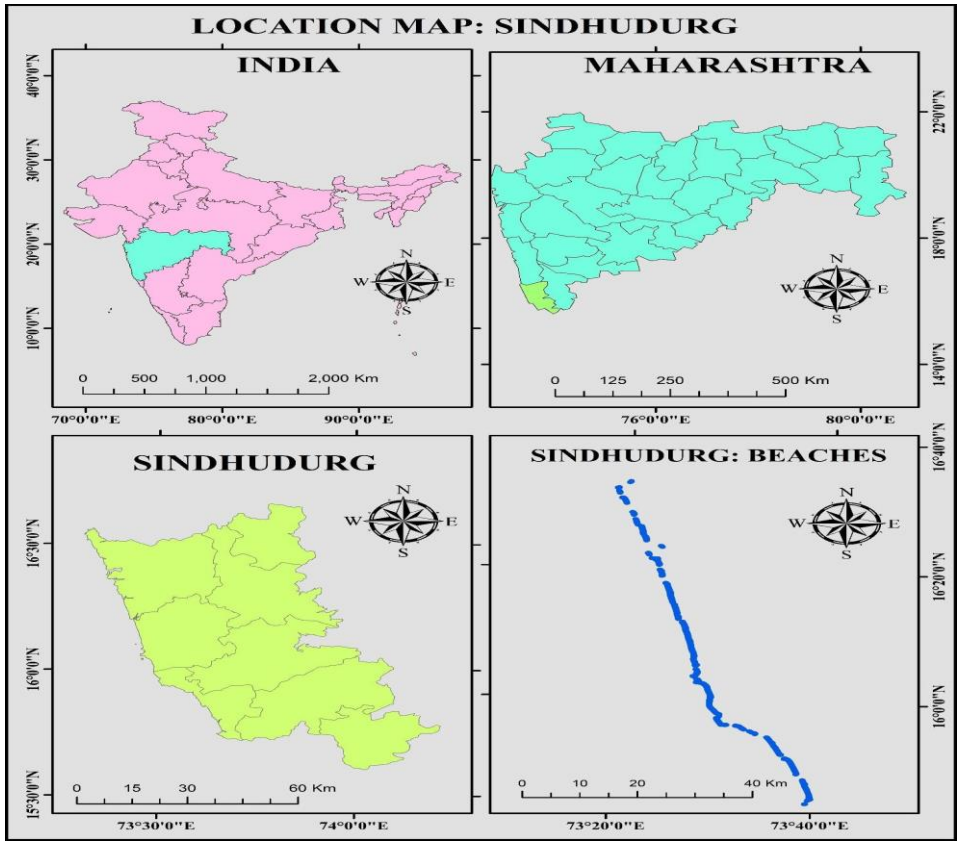
- To assess the spatio-temporal changes in occupational structure of Sindhudurg district.
- To assess the level of economical development in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra

Data Base and Methodology

For the analysis of occupational structure of Sindhudurg district category wise data of working population of Sindhudurg district has been collected from census handbook of Sindhudurg district for 1991, 2001 and 2011. Percentage of working population has been calculated and plotted on a map in the form of divided circle with the help of GIS software.

The Region

It spreads from 15º 37' to 16º 40' north latitudes and between 73º 19' and 74º 13' east longitudes. Earlier, Sindhudurg was a part of Ratnagiri district but in 1981 for administrative convenience, industrial & agricultural development, Ratnagiri district was divided into Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg District. The district was named after the famous sea fort which was built by Cht. Shivaji Maharaj near Malwan. Sindhudurg is surrounded by Kolhapur district in the east, Ratnagiri district in the north, Arabian Sea towards the west and Karnataka and Goa States to the south. On the west, Arabian Sea provides a seaboard of about 121 kilometres to this district. The district now comprises of the tehsil kudal, Malvan, Deogad, kankavli, Sawantwadi and Vengurla carved out from Ratnagiri district. It also includes the new tehsil of Vaibhavwadi and Dodamarg created by transfer of the villages from Kolhapur. The district has an area of 5,207.0 sq. kms and accounts for 1.7 percent of the total area of the state. The population density of the district is 167 people per sq.km. The headquarters of the district is at Oros Bk, also referred as Sindhudurg Nagari which lies in tahsil Kudal. The district is well connected to Mumbai and Kanyakumari by the Konkan Railway, which traverses through the district. It also has a good network of roads connecting it to other parts of the country. District is made up of 8 Tehsils, 8 Panchayat Samitis, 3 Nagar Parishads, 4 Municipal councils and 433 Gram Panchayats. It comprises of 752 villages and 5 towns, 9 police stations & 23 police outposts approximately. Geographically Sindhudurg has considerable variations in relief, climate and socio-economic environment. The region is a narrow coastal strip with hilly and rugged topographic features. Near the Sahyadri hills, the valleys are more open and the hills are less rugged than the centers of the region. Towards the coast it has plateau's in great part made barren by capping of laterite rocks, left by deep narrow steep sided valleys and ravines, through which rivers are tidal river and use for navigable purpose. The land on the bank of the river is fertile. The total 6 rivers are flowing in Sindhudurg district they flows westward side. The climate of the region is moist and humid. The variation in thetemperature during day and throughout the season is about 10 ^{0} C. in the hilly region. With the largest forest area and heavy rainfall, weather is humid in rainy season and very cool in winter season. On the coastal line temperature ranges between 35 ^{0} C to 40 ^{0} C throughout the year but climate is very humid. Overall, the region experiences high rainfall. The Sindhudurg district is receiving rainfall for 5 months from June to October. June to August receives highest rainfall. September October receives low rainfall. The Monsoon season is responsible for rainfall.



Demographic Data of Sindhudurg Year 2015-2016

Tehsils	Doda Marg	Sawant wadi	Vengurla	Kudal	Malvan	Kankavali	Devgad	Vaibhavwadi
Area (Sq.m)	498	856	291	826	666	773	875	416
Population	48904	147466	85801	152939	111807	135184	120909	43845
Male	24242	72944	42235	79489	55010	661066	58938	20563
Female	24662	74522	43566	73450	56797	69078	61971	23282
No of Villages	59	86	84	125	136	105	98	59

Source: District survey report Sindhudurg Maharashtra

Above table shows the demographic characteristics of Sindhudurg district. Total area of Sindhudurg district is 5,207 sq km. in which about 386 sq km is forest cover, 3,222 sq km is cultivable area and 1,522 sq km is net sown area. Which is 47.23 percent of the cultivable area. In Sindhudurg district area wise Devgad is largest district followed by Sawantwadi and Kudal but Vengurla is smallest district. But if we see the population Kudal ranks first, Sawantwadi ranks second and Kankavali ranks third. Devgad ranks fourth in the population. Kudal, Kankavali and Sawantwadi are on the national highway and away from the coast. These three districts are having more facilities therefore population is more. Number of villages are more in Malvan and Kudal both are considered as district headquarters.

Population In Sindhudurg In 1991, 2001& 2011

Sl. No	Tehsil	Population								
		1991			2001			2011		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	Devgad	14.36	100	0	14.42	100.00	0	14.23	100.00	0.00
2	Vaibhavvadi	5.83	100	0	5.56	100.00	0	5.16	100.00	0.00
3	Kankavli	15.64	100	0	15.90	89.41	10.59	15.92	81.96	18.04
4	Malwan	14.00	84.53	15.47	13.43	83.99	16.01	13.16	83.32	16.68
5	Vengurla	10.52	85.98	24.36	10.17	85.89	14.11	10.10	85.56	14.44
6	Kudal	17.26	91.91	8.09	17.60	91.08	8.92	18.32	89.71	10.29
7	Sawantwadi	22.39	88.56	11.44	17.12	84.60	15.40	17.36	75.90	24.10
8	Dodamarg	NA			5.79	100.00	0	5.76	100.00	0.00
Sindhudurg Total:		830726	92.40	7.60	868725	90.53	9.47	8,49,651	87.41	12.59

Source: Census of India, District Handbook, Sindhudurg District. 1991, 2001 & 2011.

This table shows tehsil wise population distribution in three decades. In Sindhudurg district most of the population is living in rural areas. Mostly Devgad, Vaibhavwadi and Dodamarg are 100 rural areas. 1991 Kankavali was rural area but Kankavali located on highway and its place of MLA therefore it is developed and now about 81.96 percent of population is rural and about 18 percent population is urban now. Sawantwadi is the only tehsil where we found about 24 percent area is urban and 76 percent is rural. Somehow total population in all tehsil is stable in all three decades.

Occupational Structure

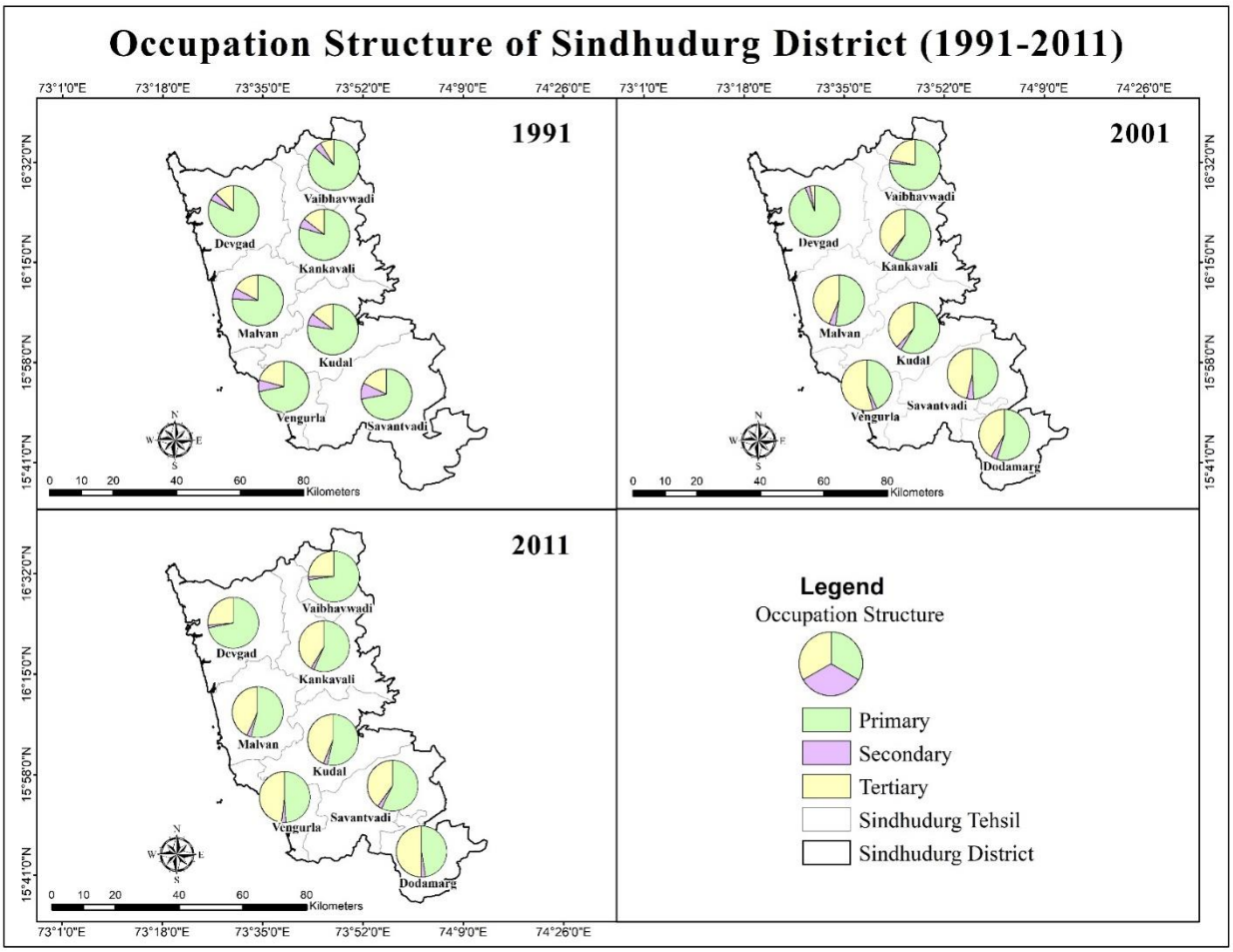
An occupation structure is important criteria to analyze the status of region. Sindhudurg district is having unique features. This district is narrow strip which covers coastal area, hills and few patches of plateau. Coastal area is mostly having rural based zones, where we can get plantation like mango, cashew, betelnut and coconut. Even fishery also main activity here. When it comes to hill region most of the region is engaged in agricultural activities mostly in rice farming. Sindhudurg also engaged in mining mostly in laterite, Blackstone and sand even few of the mines of iron ore, Shilphata Sand and Bauxite are also observed here. Therefore here attempt has made to analyze of the occupational structure of Sindhudurg using the census data of 1991,2001 and 2011 is made in the following tables.

Occupation structure of Sindhudurg district

	1991			2001			2011		
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Sindhudurg	77.21	7.3	15.49	55.77	3.16	41.07	52.75	2.48	44.77
Devgad	82.4	5.06	12.54	93.95	3.02	3.04	71.69	1.65	26.65
Vaibhavwadi	86.5	4.67	8.83	76.22	2.02	21.76	72.8	2.11	25.09
Kankavali	79.44	6.1	14.46	58.86	2.39	38.75	56.65	1.99	41.37
Malvan	75.91	6.88	17.22	52.11	4.13	43.76	54.16	2.77	43.07
Vengurla	71.77	7.46	20.77	43.55	2.48	53.97	49.26	2.66	48.08
Kudal	77.52	7.8	14.69	58.58	3.06	38.36	53.48	2.68	43.84
Sawantwadi	71.88	10.39	17.73	49.21	4.44	46.35	57.17	2.84	39.99
Dodamarg	NA			54.63	4.07	41.3	47.43	2.65	49.92

Source: Socio – economic census of Sindhudurg 1991, 2001, 2011

In Sindhudurg district in 1991 more than 70 percent population was engaged in primary activities which includes farming, fisherman and mining. till 2001 most of the male population from Sindhudurg district were migrated towards Mumbai for work therefore major population was female. They were engaged in agricultural sector. In all three decades secondary activities are very less the reason behind this is the physiography and climate of Sindhudurg district. Even transportation and other facilities are not much developed. Here due to uneven topography and heavy rainfall industrial sector is very less. Even construction business is not much developed therefore working force in secondary activities is less. In 1991 secondary population engaged in secondary activities was more than 2001 and 2011. That was more in food processing industry and construction business.



In all three decades tertiary activities are second highest activities in Sindhudurg district. Sindhudurg is major market of Fish and Mangoes therefore from long back here people are engaged in this marketing. Most of the coastal people are fisherman so they are engaged in marketing of fish, even cashew nuts and coconuts are also more here, and few places were having tourism facilities therefore in 1991 here tertiary activities was having. But in 1998 special tourism policy was introduced for tourism development as tourism district. Therefore thereafter tourism has increased it reflects in working population in tertiary activities from 2001 onwards. Devgad, Malvan, Vengurla and Sawantwadi are the tourist tehsil therefore here tourism developed more so people engaged in tertiary activities are more. Here in Sindhudurg people has developed homestay in bread and breakfast scheme they are engaged in accommodation, food industry and shopping of local products even they are having their own agricultural land where they do plantation. Few are working as fisherman they do fishery and tourism activities. Therefore even people engaged in primary activity seasonally they are engaged in tourism activities.

Conclusion

Occupation structure reflects the economical status of the region. It shows how region is developed. In Sindhudurg district more 71 percent population is rural population but then also it shows that about half of the population now engaged in tertiary activity only because tourism industry and marketing. Sawantwadi is having traditionally wooden material shops like that now in Sindhudurg in every tehsil number of shops wooden material, mango and other food product like cashew nuts Kokam and other local food products, number of snacks sport and hotels are also increased. Kudal is administrative unit therefore government offices are more in Kudal again many big shops like clothes electronic goods are in Kudal, Kankavali and Sawantwadi because all these three districts are on the highway. But this development of tertiary activities are uneven it should be proper planned. Local people houses their skill should be used for this and it should be in organized manner.

Tertiary and secondary sector should be developed as secondary option for primary workers and it should be developed in cooperative system and community programs.

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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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