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**AN ASSESSMENT OF DISTRICT-WISE URBANIZATION GROWTH
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AN ASSESSMENT OF DISTRICT-WISE URBANIZATION GROWTH OF MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract:

In order to understand the concept of urbanization, and the process, it is important to look at how and where a place grows. In this research paper, district wise analysis of urbanization in Maharashtra has been done. Maharashtra is first in India in terms of total urban population. Maharashtra has a very high rate of urbanization in India. The availability of employment opportunities and livelihood in Maharashtra attracts many people. The urban population of Maharashtra has increased tremendously due to the migration from the entire country as well as the rural areas of Maharashtra to the urban areas. The western part of Maharashtra has a higher urban population than the eastern part. Marathwada and Vidarbha in Maharashtra have the lowest level of urbanization. In the last two decades (1991 to 2011), the urban population in the state of Maharashtra has increased by 23.67 percent, which is very high. In the future, Maharashtra will continue to be one of the most urbanized states of India. Various problems created due to rapid urbanization will have to be faced in the future. Therefore, it is very important to study the population in the context of urbanization. Such a study would provide guidelines for planning future demographic aspects.

Keywords: urbanization, urban centers, population growth, industrialization.

Introduction:

The word urbanization is derived from the English word urban. The word urban is derived from the Latin word *urbs*. In Latin, the word *urbs* means city or town. In order to understand the concept of urbanization, and the process, it is important to look at how and where a place grows. According to Nelson Anderson, "urbanization is a change in the way in which industries (factories) develop more and the way of life is different than in rural areas." Places that have made great strides in modern times have become hubs of industry. Many people from different parts of the country come to such places to seek employment. Therefore, new and different ways of life are created by changing the old way of life of that place. This method is different from the village. This is because most of the people in the place of business are engaged in secondary sector business. People in rural areas are engaged in agribusiness and other primary activities. So, the lifestyle in the city is different than in the rural areas. The percentage of urban population is increasing in the states of India (Mundhe, 2014), (Klasen 2006). The growth of urban population in a state is the most important indicator in the analysis of regional development (Bhagat, 2019), (Bhagat & Mohanty, 2009). The growth of the urban population plays an important role (Chhabra et al., 2007) in the analysis of social and economic development (Onda et al., 2019). In 2011, Maharashtra had a total population of 11,23,72,972 (9.29 per cent), second only to Uttar Pradesh in terms of population (Chandrasekhar 2015), (Sassen et al., 1998). Maharashtra's population has increased by 17.8 million in the last two decades (Mohanty et al., 2021). From 1991 to 2011, the urban population of Maharashtra has increased from 30.54 million to 50.83 million (Agarwal, 2011). The urban population of Maharashtra has increased tremendously due to the migration from the entire country as well as from the rural areas of Maharashtra towards the urban centers of the Maharashtra (Salunke, 2020), (Nadu, 2001). The growth in terms of urbanization in Maharashtra is very heterogeneous (Iyer et al., 2005), (Han et al., 2009). The urban population seems to have increased more in the western part of Maharashtra than in the eastern part (Linard et al., 2012). Marathwada and Vidarbha in Maharashtra have the lowest level of urbanization (Waghmare, 2016). Besides this, industrialization, information technology and educational advancement have led to rapid changes in the level of urbanization in the cities and districts such as Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur. Mumbai and the suburbs of Mumbai seem to be 100 percent urbanized. In contrast, Sindhudurg and Gadchiroli districts have the lowest level of urbanization (less than 15 percent). Mumbai and its suburbs have a combined population of over 1.84 crores. Maharashtra has a total of six urbanized regions, with Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Vasai Virar and Aurangabad, having a population of more than one million each (Rain et al., 2007b). The main reasons for the increase in population in the cities of Maharashtra are the guarantee of employment, education and a high standard of living which attracts people from different parts of the country and all corners of Maharashtra (Rain et al., 2007). Maharashtra ranks fifth in India in terms of urbanization. But in comparison to the total population, Maharashtra's population of 50.83 million is the largest urban population of any state in India (Cohen, 2006). Therefore, Maharashtra ranks first in India in terms of total urban population. Maharashtra alone accounts for 13.5 percent of India's total urban population. After Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh has 11.8 percent of total urban population of India. No other state in the rest of India has more than 10 per cent of urban population of India.

Objectives:

The present study has been undertaken with the following specific objectives:

1. To examine the trend of urbanization in Maharashtra.

2. To analysis district-wise urban growth of Maharashtra.

Database and Methodology:

This paper is based on secondary data sources. To fulfill the objectives of this research, data regarding urbanization of Maharashtra is obtained from the Census of India. The analysis and interpretation of data has been done from the geographical point of view. MS-Excel was used to process, analyze and represent the demographic data. Very high, high, moderate and low urbanization patterns in Maharashtra were examined in detail. ArcGIS software was used to prepare the maps.

Result and Discussion:

Trend of Urbanization in Maharashtra from 1901 to 2011:

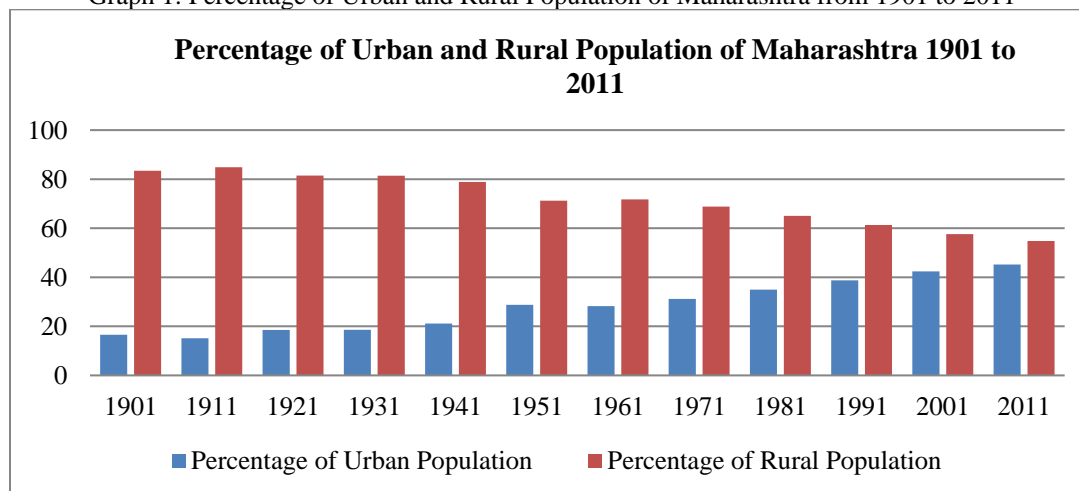
By observing the graph 1 below, the urban population of Maharashtra has been steadily increasing since 1901 with two exceptions (1911 and 1961). In 1901, the percentage of the urban population was 16.59 percent. This was slightly reduced to 15.13 percent in 1911. Since 1921, the percentage of urban population has been steadily rising except during 1961. According to the Census report of 1951, after independence of India in 1947, the urban population of Maharashtra grew by 7.64 percent to reach 28.75 percent from 21.11 percent. This was the highest decadal increase in the percentage of urban population of Maharashtra. This was followed by a slight decrease of 0.53 percent in 1961. After 1961, however, the urban population of Maharashtra has been growing. In 2011, the percentage of the urban population in Maharashtra was 45.22. This proportion is higher than the proportion of India's urban population. According to the Policy Commission's (*Niti Aayog*) 2021 report, Maharashtra will have more than 51 percent population of the state living in urban areas.

Table 1: Rural and Urban population in Maharashtra (%) from 1901 to 2011

Census Year	Urban Population (%)	Rural Population (%)
1901	16.59	83.41
1911	15.13	84.87
1921	18.50	81.50
1931	18.60	81.40
1941	21.11	78.89
1951	28.75	71.25
1961	28.22	71.78
1971	31.17	68.83
1981	34.99	65.01
1991	38.73	61.31
2001	42.43	57.57
2011	45.22	54.77

Source: Census Reports - 1901 to 2011

Graph 1: Percentage of Urban and Rural Population of Maharashtra from 1901 to 2011



District-wise Urbanization in Maharashtra:

According to the 2011 Census report, the trend of district-wise urbanization in Maharashtra shows that the urban population of Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Pune, Nagpur, Mumbai and Nashik together is more than 25 lakhs. These districts are followed by Aurangabad, Solapur, Jalgaon, Kolhapur and Amravati with a population of over one million each. The two districts of Greater Mumbai and Mumbai are 100 percent urbanized. According to the 2011 Census report, Thane (85,03,094) district has the highest urban population, followed by Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban. After that is Pune district which has the population of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad as well as other urban areas of the district (57,93,716). The district having the lowest urban population in Maharashtra is Sindhudurg (1,06,998) and the percentage of the urban population in Sindhudurg district is only 12.60 percent. The percentage of urban population is the lowest in Gadchiroli district i.e. 11 percent. Hingoli district has an urban population of 15.17 percent, Washim 17.69 percent and Gondia 17.07 percent. Although the percentage of urban population growth in the districts of eastern Maharashtra is higher, the overall population growth rate is very low. The districts of Maharashtra are categorized by the percentage of urban population as follows:

1) Very High Urbanization (75 to 100 percent):

Maximum growth of urban areas in Maharashtra has taken place in the area around the Mumbai metropolitan city. The districts with more than 75 percent urban population are Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban and Thane. Out of these, Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban are 100 percent urbanized. Thane district near Mumbai has 76.92 percent urban population. According to the 2011 Census report, the level of urbanization is highest in Mumbai and its environs. Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban and Thane are all close to each other. These areas have eight of the 27 largest Municipal Corporations in Maharashtra. The reason for the high rate of urbanization in Mumbai and its environs is that many people migrate to Mumbai from different parts of the country, not just Maharashtra. Increased urbanization and industrialization in and around Mumbai provides employment opportunities to many people, so the population in and around Mumbai is growing very rapidly. The increase in urbanization in the adjoining districts of Palghar and Raigad is also astonishing. The population density of Mumbai and its environs is also very high. This has created various problems related to the environment. The city of Mumbai has to deal with issues such as transportation, water supply, power supply, waste management, sewage disposal, public sanitation, health facilities, crimes, air pollution, noise pollution and congestion. The number of slums in Mumbai and adjoining areas has also increased rapidly. Dharavi in Mumbai is the largest slum in Asia.

2) High Urbanization (50 to 75 percent):

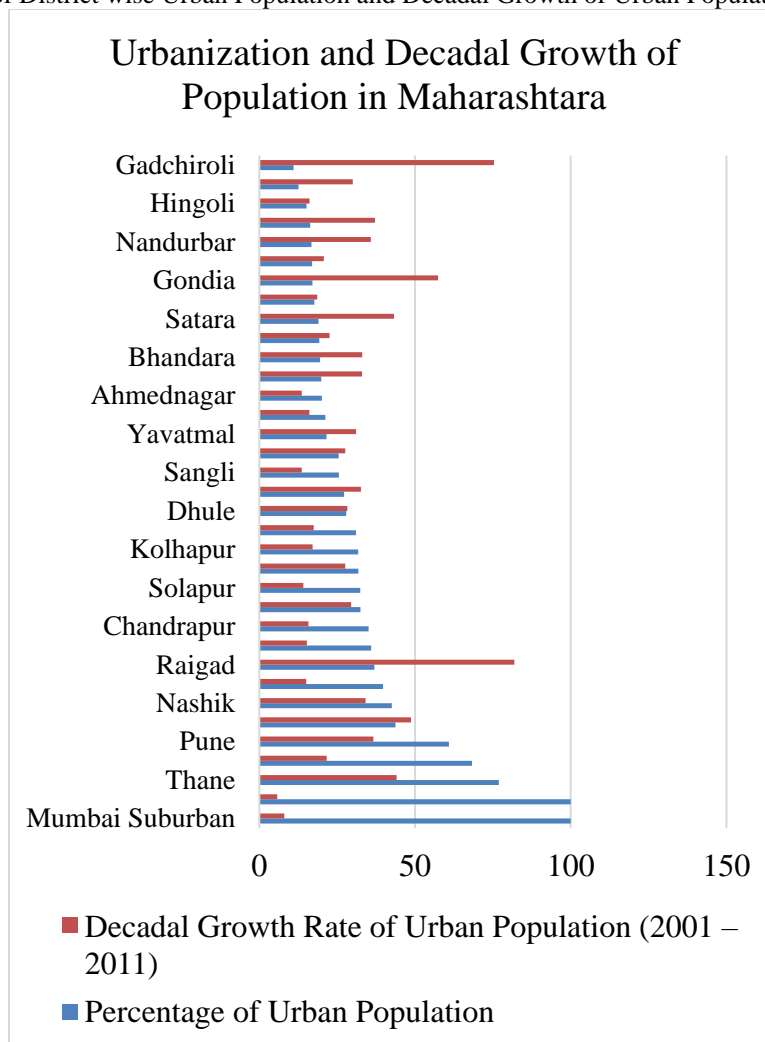
Regions with more than 50 percent but less than 75 percent urban population are categorized as highly urbanized regions. In Maharashtra, Nagpur and Pune districts have more than fifty percent urban population. Nagpur district has achieved 68.3 percent urbanization and Pune district has 60.89 percent urban population. Nagpur is the sub-capital of Maharashtra and an important administrative city in the Vidarbha region. As Nagpur district has more employment opportunities than other districts of Vidarbha, so the flow of migrants from other districts of Vidarbha to Nagpur city is higher. Pune district is known as the cultural capital of Maharashtra. Large-scale industrialization has taken place in the Pune district. Along with Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad, Chakan, Talegaon, Ranjangaon, Sanaswadi, Jejuri and Baramati have witnessed rapid industrialization. The industrial sector in this area has created many employment opportunities for the people in the surrounding regions. Also, the growing population has created many employment opportunities in the construction, education and other services sectors as well. Overall, this has created employment opportunities in different areas of the Pune district, which has resulted in the high level of urbanization in Pune district.

Table 2: District wise Distribution of Population in Maharashtra (Total, Rural, Urban) in 2011

Sr. No.	District	Total	Rural	Urban	Percentage of Urban Population	Decadal Growth Rate of Urban Population
						(2001 – 2011)
1	Nandurbar	1,646,177	1,370,995	275,182	16.72	35.78
2	Dhule	2,048,781	1,477,034	571,747	27.91	28.23
3	Jalgaon	4,224,442	2,880,984	1,343,458	31.80	27.61
4	Buldhana	2,588,039	2,038,650	549,389	21.23	16.06
5	Akola	1,818,617	1,096,768	721,849	39.69	15.04
6	Washim	1,196,714	985,058	211,656	17.69	18.61
7	Amravati	2,887,826	1,851,134	1,036,692	35.90	15.24
8	Wardha	1,296,157	875,284	420,873	32.47	29.48
9	Nagpur	4,653,171	1,474,977	3,178,194	68.30	21.60
10	Bhandara	1,198,810	965,053	233,757	19.50	33.02
11	Gondia	1,322,331	1,096,631	225,700	17.07	57.36
12	Gadchiroli	1,071,795	953,858	117,937	11.00	75.34
13	Chandrapur	2,194,262	1,424,424	769,838	35.08	15.75
14	Yavatmal	2,775,457	2,176,252	599,205	21.59	31.06
15	Nanded	3,356,566	2,442,734	913,832	27.23	32.62
16	Hingoli	1,178,973	1,000,102	178,871	15.17	16.13
17	Parbhani	1,835,982	1,266,112	569,870	31.04	17.45
18	Burn	1,958,483	1,581,251	377,232	19.26	22.53
19	Aurangabad	3,695,928	2,079,327	1,616,601	43.74	48.70
20	Nashik	6,109,052	3,510,885	2,598,167	42.53	34.10
21	Thane	11,054,131	2,551,037	8,503,094	76.92	44.06
22	Mumbai Suburban	9,332,481	--	9,332,481	100	8.01
23	Mumbai	3,145,966	--	3,145,966	100	5.75
24	Raigad	2,635,394	1,662,585	972,809	36.91	81.89
25	Pune	9,426,959	3,687,243	5,739,716	60.89	36.63
26	Ahmednagar	4,543,083	3,630,012	913,071	20.10	13.61
27	Beed	2,585,962	2,071,277	514,685	19.90	32.97
28	Latur	2,455,543	1,830,085	625,458	25.47	27.58
29	Osmanabad	1,660,311	1,378,713	281,598	16.96	20.72
30	Solapur	4,315,527	2,917,088	1,398,439	32.40	14.13
31	Satara	3,003,922	2,433,694	570,228	18.98	43.23
32	Ratnagiri	1,612,672	1,349,062	263,610	16.35	37.15
33	Sindhudurg	848,868	741,870	106,998	12.60	29.98
34	Kolhapur	3,874,015	2,644,119	1,229,896	31.75	17.09
35	Sangli	2,820,575	2,101,143	719,432	25.51	13.62
	Maharashtra	112,372,972	61,545,441	50,827,531	45.23	23.67

Source: Census Report of Maharashtra, 2011

Graph 2: Distribution of District wise Urban Population and Decadal Growth of Urban Population in Maharashtra, 2011



3) Moderate Urbanization (25 to 50 percent):

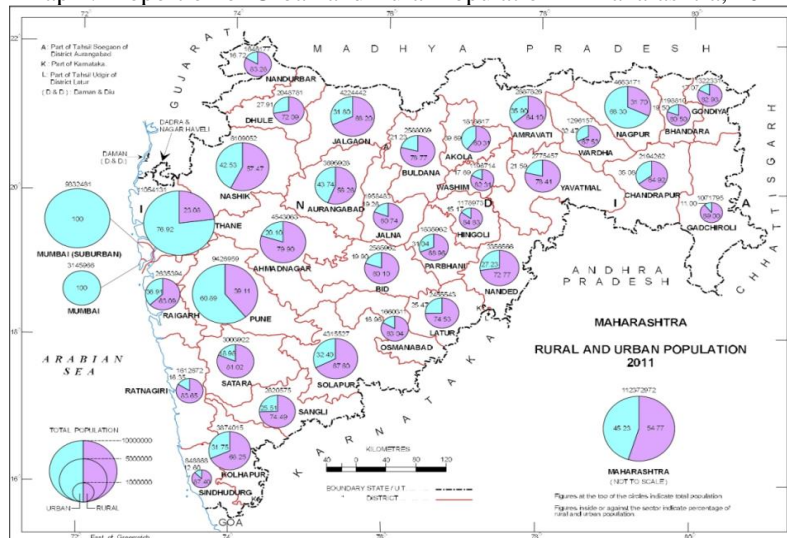
According to 2011 Census report, the urban population of Aurangabad is 43.74 percent, Nashik 42.53 percent, Akola 36.69 percent, Raigad 36.91 percent, Amravati 35.9 percent, Chandrapur 35.8 percent, Wardha 32.47 percent, Solapur 32.4 percent, Jalgaon 31.8 percent, Kolhapur 31.75 percent, Parbhani 31.04 percent, Dhule 27.91 percent, Nanded 27.23 percent, Sangli 25.51 percent and Latur 25.4 percent. These fifteen districts have more than 25 percent and less than 50 percent urban population each which corresponds to the moderate level of urbanization. Aurangabad and Nashik districts have more than 40 percent urban population. Nashik is an important cultural center in Western Maharashtra, so the population of Nashik district is growing rapidly. Also, Aurangabad is a major industrial city in Marathwada. Due to migration from other parts of Marathwada to Aurangabad city, the population and urbanization rate of Aurangabad district are increasing rapidly. The remaining districts of Western Maharashtra such as Solapur, Kolhapur and Sangli are basically agricultural and to some extent industrial, so their population is increasing. Also, due to the proximity of Raigad district to Mumbai, the urban population is increasing very rapidly in Raigad district. Due to the migration of the educated community from the rural areas of the district to the urban areas, the urban population of these districts is increasing. As a result, the total urban population in all these districts is slowly increasing.

4) Low Urbanization (0 to 25 percent):

The level of urbanization is low in the districts which have less than 25 percent urban population. There are 15 districts in Maharashtra with less than 25 percent urban population. These are Yavatmal (21.59 percent), Buldhana (21.23 percent), Ahmednagar (20.1 percent), Beed (19.9 percent), Bhandara (19.5 percent), Jalna (19.26 percent), Satara (18.98 percent), Washim (17.69 percent), Gondia (17.07 percent), Osmanabad (16.96 percent), Nandurbar (16.72 percent), Ratnagiri (16.35 percent), Hingoli (15.17 percent), Sindhudurg (12.7 percent) and Gadchiroli (11 percent). The level of urbanization in these districts is very low, due to unfavorable geographical conditions and low availability of employment opportunities, as well as primary activities based economy. Among the districts with low levels of urbanization, Gadchiroli, Hingoli, Nandurbar, Gondia and Washim are the districts with high tribal population. The total population is low due to migration from these districts to other districts, and the rate of

urbanization in these districts is also low. The level of urbanization is low in the Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Konkan. Due to the lack of industrialization in Konkan and lack of employment opportunities, most of the people in Konkan migrate to Mumbai, Thane and surrounding areas. This seems to have affected the total population and urban population of these districts. The level of urbanization is very low in all these districts. The educated community in these districts appears to be migrating to the big cities for jobs and to secure a better life. Out of all these districts, migration to Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Nagpur and Aurangabad is higher. Overall, the growth rate of urban population in these districts is very low.

Map 1: Proportion of Urban and Rural Population in Maharashtra, 2011

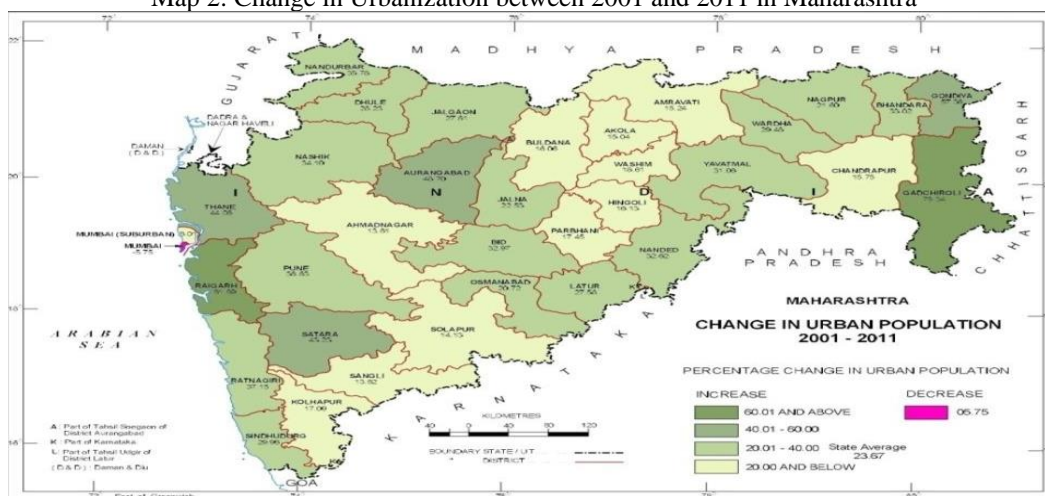


Source: Census Report of Maharashtra, 2011

Growth in the last decade in the districts of Maharashtra

Graph 2 shows the urban growth in the last decade (2001 to 2011). Between 2001 and 2011, the highest urban population growth rate (UPGR) has been observed in the following districts: Raigad (81.89 percent), Gadchiroli (75.34 percent) and Gondia (57.36 percent). Although Raigad, Gadchiroli and Gondia districts have a very high percentage increase in the urban population, their overall urban population is less. Raigad district has recorded an high increase rate in urban population (81.89 percent), with a total population of 9,72,809. However, in Thane (44.06 percent UPGR), Pune (36.63 percent UPGR) and Nashik (34.1 percent UPGR) districts, the urban population seems to have increased significantly. Among the districts with an increase of urban population between 25 and 50 percent are Aurangabad, Thane, Satara, Ratnagiri, Pune, Nandurbar, Nashik, Bhandara, Beed, Nanded, Yavatmal, Sindhudurg, Wardha, Dhule, Jalgaon and Latur. In the remaining 16 districts, the increase in urban population is up to 25 percent. In the last two decades, the urban population in the state of Maharashtra has increased by 23.67 percent. Maharashtra has 19 districts with more than the state's average percentage increase in the urban population.

Map 2: Change in Urbanization between 2001 and 2011 in Maharashtra



Source: Census Report of Maharashtra, 2011

Conclusion:

Maharashtra has the highest number of million cities in India. Maharashtra has the highest urban population in India. Maharashtra alone accounts for 13.15 percent of the total urban population in India. Maharashtra ranks first in India in terms of the total urban population. Maharashtra ranks second in terms of total population after Uttar Pradesh. Maharashtra's population has increased by 17.8 million in the last two decades (1991 to 2011). From 1991 to 2011, the urban population of Maharashtra has increased from 30.54 million to 50.83 million. The urban population of Maharashtra has increased tremendously due to the migration from the entire country as well as the rural areas of Maharashtra to the urban areas. The growth in terms of urbanization in Maharashtra is very heterogeneous. The western part of Maharashtra has a higher urban population than the eastern part. Marathwada and Vidarbha in Maharashtra have the lowest level of urbanization. Mumbai and its suburbs in Maharashtra are 100 percent urbanized. Sindhudurg and Gadchiroli districts have the lowest level of urbanization. According to the 2011 Census report, the urban population of Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik is more than twenty five lakhs. Greater Mumbai and Mumbai are two districts that are 100 percent urbanized. In the last two decades (1991 to 2011), the urban population in the state of Maharashtra has increased by 23.67 percent, which is very high. The level of urbanization in Maharashtra is increasing rapidly. By the end of 2021, the urban population in Maharashtra will be more than 52 percent. After analyzing the demographic data, in the future, the rate of urbanization in Maharashtra will increase rapidly. Various problems created due to rapid urbanization will have to be faced in the future. Therefore, it is very important to study the population in the context of urbanization. Such a study would provide guidelines for planning future demographic aspects.

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