



EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND IT'S IMPACT ON THE SOCIETY: A CASE STUDY OF SOUTH MAHARASHTRA 1981 – 2001

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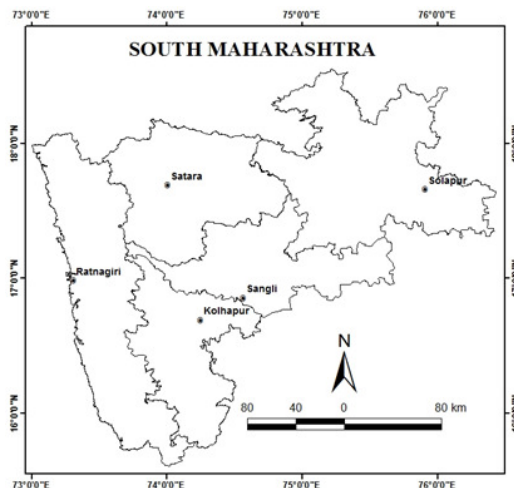
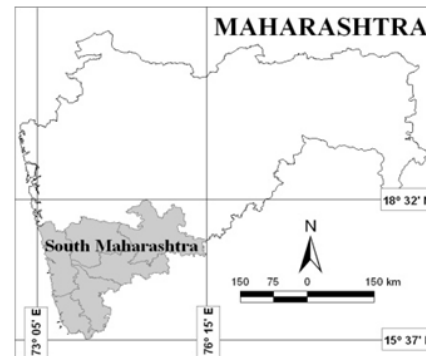
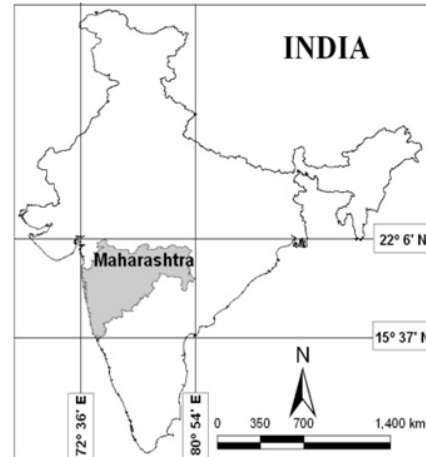
Introduction:

Geography is a spatial science. It has its focus on regional development which refers to comprehensive integrated development of a region covering economic progress, social advancement, political and educational development. We can observe in countries like India that there are wide regional variations in the educational provision of infrastructural services or works. The Government of India has started 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' (SSA), which is an effort to universalize elementary education with participation of State Government. The State Government has taken decision to start SSA by universalizing primary education during 2001-02. The basic objective of the study is to bring out the pattern of spatial distribution of amenities like educational institutions. During the 1981, 1991 and 2001 census year, infrastructure i.e. educational institutions, teacher-students ratio and villages having different amenities served by educational development has rapidly increase but this increase was not much more.

Study Problem :

In South Maharashtra or in the entire state of Maharashtra there are wide variations in educational infrastructure, and mostly it is confined to larger cities and the countryside is lagging far behind. However, in the recent past almost all districts of the South Maharashtra recorded an improvement in educational index of infrastructure services. This paper aims to study the socio economic impact of educational infrastructure of south Maharashtra. It is intended to study here the Distribution of infrastructural facilities in different regions and level and trends of educational development. It is expected that this study will help the planner and administrators in determining the size of investment for institutional and basic infrastructural development as well as identifying the nodal points of educational development for area planning.

LOCATION MAP SOUTH MAHARASHTRA



Study Area :

The study region known as South Maharashtra can reasonably be divided into two areas. Konkan and the rest South (western) Maharashtra. It includes districts namely Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Solapur and Ratnagiri.

Objectives:

1. To assess the existing educational infrastructure and its impact on the study area and people therein.
2. To assess the variations in the levels of educational attainments in south Maharashtra.
3. To measure the overall development of educational infrastructure of study area.

Data Collection:

The present study is based on secondary sources of data. The respective decennial census data from 1981 to 2001 (wherever published) which are the reference years of the present study however for the Draft Report, we have confined ourselves only to the analysis of the relevant census data. The district level study pertains to the data that were collected from 1981, 1991 and 2001 census of India. Besides this other census reports were also made use of. Some secondary source of data were collected from related books, journal, District Gazetteers, Statistical Abstracts of the State, Socio-Economic Review of the District, Socio-Economic Survey, Education at a glance, Selected Educational Statistics of the state and related district.

Methodology:

The study of Educational Infrastructure And Its Impact On The Society is based on 1981, 1991 and 2001 census data. In order to process the data various appropriate statistical techniques have been applied for analyzing the data to measure the educational infrastructure, impact of educational institutions on the society and disparity in educational attainment. In the present study district have been taken as the basic units of investigations. In this study an attempt has been made to provide a profile of the spatial distribution of educational infrastructural facilities in different areas of the study region based on 1981, 1991 and 2001 census data and different aspects of level and trends of educational development on 1981-2001 census data.

The educational institutions are categorized into several classes such as primary-middle, secondary, higher secondary, graduate and above level of education, etc. The study area of south Maharashtra contains all these types of

educational institutions but they are not unique. For instance in urban area the institutions are more particularly in administrative headquarters like Sangli-Miraj, Kolhapur, Satara, etc. on the contrary in remote areas these are lacking. This section highlights this aspect thoroughly.

Spatial Patterns of Educational Institutions at District Level, 1981-2001

Educational facilities at the minimum level of primary education to graduate and above are available in all the districts of the study area. All the villages of the Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Solapur and Ratnagiri districts have primary (I to IV std.) school each within their respective revenue limits. Middle school, that is school with facilities for teaching higher primary classes (V to VII standard) are functioning in the study area (Table 1.1).

Primary-Middle of Educational Institutions (1st to 7th std.)

Table 1.1 shows that percentage of educational institutions to total institutions at District level the primary-middle basic (elementary) level of educational institutions of South Maharashtra as a whole was 89.06 per cent in 1981, which decreased to 85.24 per cent in 1991 and again slightly decreased to 81.25 in 2001. The state average was 88.58 per cent in 1981, 83.74 per cent in 1991 and 79.83 in 2001 respectively. It signifies that the goal to achieve primary education for all children is far away. At district level the high percentage of educational facilities is confined to the big cities and towns of the study area. The economically backward of the study region like eastern part of drought prone and western part of Konkan hilly area is backward in the field of educational facilities also.

Secondary / SSC Level Institutions (8th to 10th std)

Table 1.1 exhibited that in the entire Maharashtra there were 5429 secondary schools in 1981, 8653 in 1991 and 12,494 in 2001. While in the study area it were recorded 1082 in 1981, 1723 in 1991 and 2470 in 2001 respectively. It means the study area is not to much progressive in infrastructural educational institutions at secondary level as compared to Maharashtra State. It may be observed from Table 4.1 that the percentage of secondary schools increased from 8.88 % in 1981 to 11.90% in 1991 and to 14.67 % in 2001 in the study area.

Institutions (11th to 12th std)

In Maharashtra even in South Maharashtra the field of education especially of the higher

secondary stage, non-government institutions are imparting important role. Most of the Jr. Colleges are run by these private institutions. Govt. pays grant-in-aid to them. Table 1.1 shows the 1981,1991 and 2001 census results indicated that the position of HSC schools in the study area, was very disgusting and discouraging.

Degree / Senior College / Graduate and above Level Educational Institutions

Table 1.1 shows that percentage of educational institutions to total institutions at District level. At district level the high percentage of degree level of educational institutions was confined to the big cities and towns of the study area. The economically backward of the study region like eastern part of drought prone and western part of Konkan hilly area has remained backward in the field of educational institutions also. All those who have graduation, post graduation or vocational courses such as engineering, medical, etc, are included in this category of degree/ graduates and above educational institutions.

South Maharashtra, the area under study has a great historical background for the colleges and university education. In this area apart from Shivaji University, Mumbai University, Rayat and Swami Shikshan Sansthas, various colleges and other education institutions have been established to bring educational and progress during the last four decades. Facilities exist for graduate and above courses in various disciplines viz Arts, Commerce, Science,

Professional and Technical degree etc. These courses are generally of 1-3 years duration leading to the M.A., M.com, M.sci, etc. Post graduate and above institutions were available in the study area. The consultancy and research work is also undertaken in this higher level of education institutions.

Table 1.1 also shows percentage of degree and above level of educational institutions to total educational institutions of the district in the study area of South Maharashtra. The study area covered 0.63 per cent degree Level Colleges in 1981, where as 0.84 in 1991 and 1.05% in 2001, while the state average was covered with 0.70% in 1981, 0.98% in 1991 and 1.29% in 2001 respectively.

Percentage of Villages with Educational Amenity: Education is one of those instruments that illuminates the social fabric and speeds up the modernization process and development. This is all the more significant in the study area of South Maharashtra context. As per the 1981 census 96.55 per cent of the villages served by this amenities, where as in 1991 it was 96.17 and in 2001 it was 98.17 per cent with regard to the institutional development, it aimed to remove the imbalances within the districts in regard to the provision of educational facilities at the elementary stage. The location of new schools was proposed to be determined according to the requirement of each area as spelt out in detailed district plans (Census,1986) (Fig.1.2)

Table 1.1 South Maharashtra: Percentage of Educational Institutions to total Institutions of the District, 1981- 2001

Sr No	District	Percentage of Educational Institutions, 1981, 1991, 2001										
		1981					1991					
		Prim middle	ary-	SSC	HSC	Degree	Total %	Primary	SSC	HSC	Degree	Total%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	Kolhapur	87.93		9.96	1.31	0.80	100	79.01	17.81	1.75	1.43	100
2	Sangli	83.89		12.82	2.35	1.14	100	80.70	14.91	3.03	1.36	100
3	Satara	88.54		9.12	1.68	0.66	100	85.27	11.33	2.58	0.82	100
4	Solapur	88.19		10.00	1.02	0.79	100	85.24	11.91	1.96	0.89	100
5	Ratnagiri	92.59		5.99	1.18	0.23	100	90.68	7.61	1.46	0.25	100
*	South Maharashtra	89.06		8.88	1.43	0.63	100	85.24	11.90	2.03	0.84	100
*	Maharashtra	88.58		9.33	1.39	0.70	100	83.74	12.46	2.82	0.98	100
Continue....												
Sr.No	District	2001										
		Primary-Middle	SSC	HSC	Degree	Total %						
1	2	13	14	15	16	17						
1	Kolhapur	73.85	20.48	3.92	1.75	100.00						
2	Sangli	76.68	17.71	4.16	1.45	100.00						
3	Satara	81.52	14.23	3.20	1.05	100.00						
4	Solapur	80.16	15.99	2.95	0.90	100.00						
5	Ratnagiri	88.63	8.97	1.85	0.55	100.00						
*	South Maharashtra	81.25	14.67	3.02	1.05	100.00						
*	Maharashtra	79.83	15.02	3.86	1.29	100.00						

Source: Education at a Glance, Maharashtra State 1981, 1991 and 2001

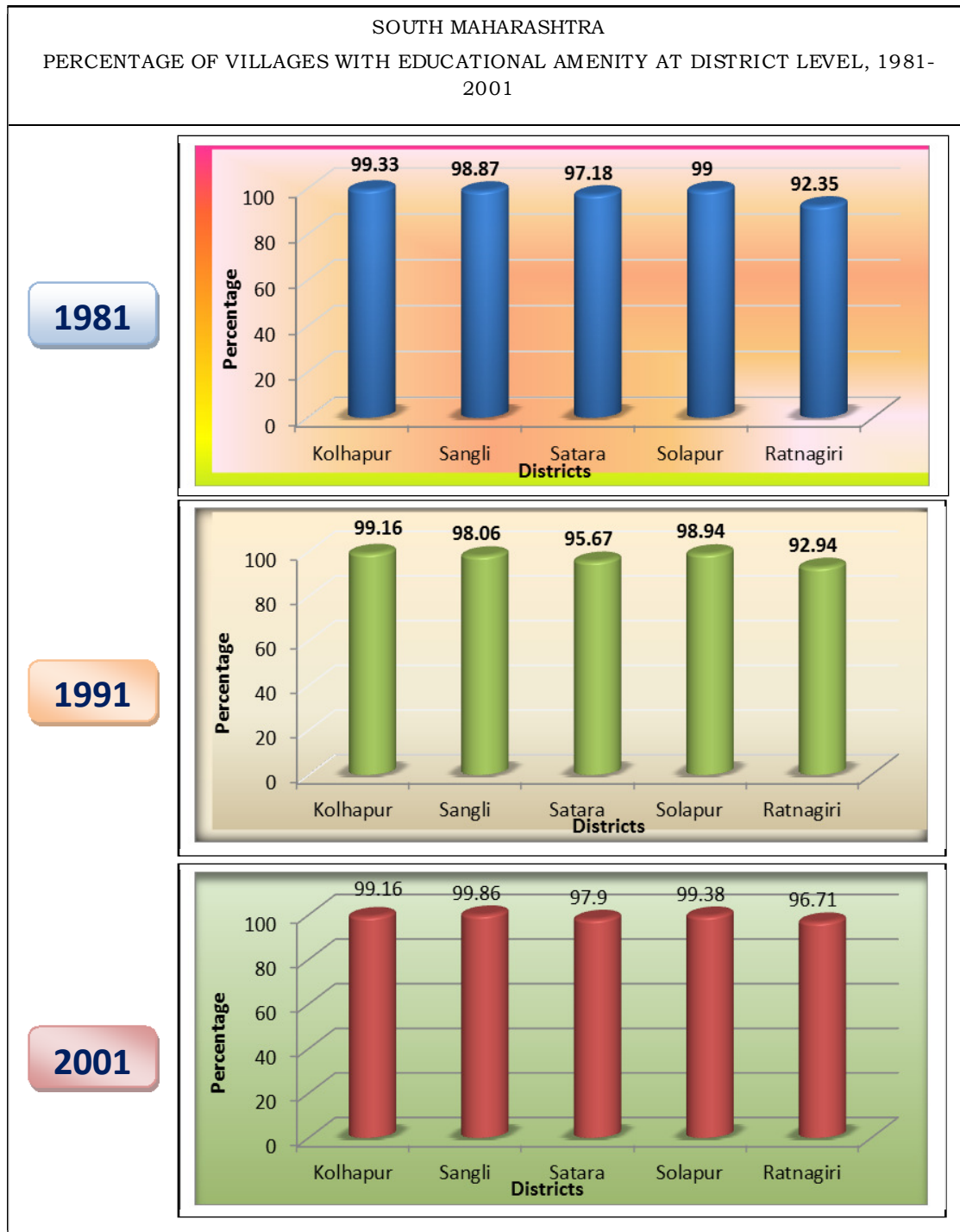


Figure 1.2

CONCLUSION

The foregoing discussion indicates that educational infrastructure of the study area was educationally still far backward as compared to other few developed regions of Maharashtra,

Kolhapur, Sangli and Ratnagiri districts were better off in comparison to the rest of districts. Three out of five districts in the study area were delineated as satisfactory in terms of availability of educational infrastructure. As is apparent

from the graph the districts of Kolhapur, Sangli and Ratnagiri shows a fairly impressive achievement in the development of educational infrastructure.

The districts of Solapur and Satara falling were delineated as unsatisfactory. These two districts had unsatisfactory development of infrastructure because of drought-prone and unfertile soil. The villages in these districts are also small sized and scattered. The district of Solapur is a drought-prone region. The eastern parts of Satara and Sangli have also been identified as drought prone by the government.

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