

## REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF SANGLI DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA): A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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### Abstract

The present research paper is giving emphasis to understand the socio-economic status of Sangli district at tehsil level. Socio-economic development is the process of social and economic development in society. It is a process of socio-cultural, economic and environmental transformation. This study identifies the dimensions of intra-district regional disparities of Sangli district. In the present paper, a detailed analysis has been attempted at the tehsil level. The aim of the present study is to conduct a comprehensive investigation of climate heterogeneity at the inter-tehsil level. Composite index statistical technique has been used to show the socio-economic disparities within tehsils. Twelve variables have been used to measuring the status of socio-economic development of each tehsils of the study area. Sangli district is well known district of western Maharashtra, but overall socio-economic status of the district is moderately. In Sangli district Walwa and Miraj tehsil has high socio-economic developed, because number of variables is very better than other tehsils of the district. Six tehsils of the study region are medium developed due to dominance of three to four variables. Atpadi tehsil come under low socio-economic developed region and lying eastern part of study region.

**Key words:** Socio-economic status, Regional disparities, Development, Variables, Transformation, Planning strategy

### Introduction

Socio-economic development belongs to the people oriented concept focusing on skill development and competencies of people. Socio-economic defined as the process of enhancing qualitative values such as knowledge, skill, creative ability, talent etc. These elements of socio-economic are the result of health, education, food and nutrition etc. In brief, socio economic development means does not resource but development of mantel and physical quality of individual. It is clear that a country which is unable to develop the skills and knowledge of its people and utilize them effectively in the national economy cannot develop anything else. Socio-economic development can use at the organizational level as well as at the national level.

### Study Area

Sangli district is the southernmost district of Maharashtra. It is situated between 16°43' north and 17°38' north latitude and the 73°41' east and 75°41' east longitude.

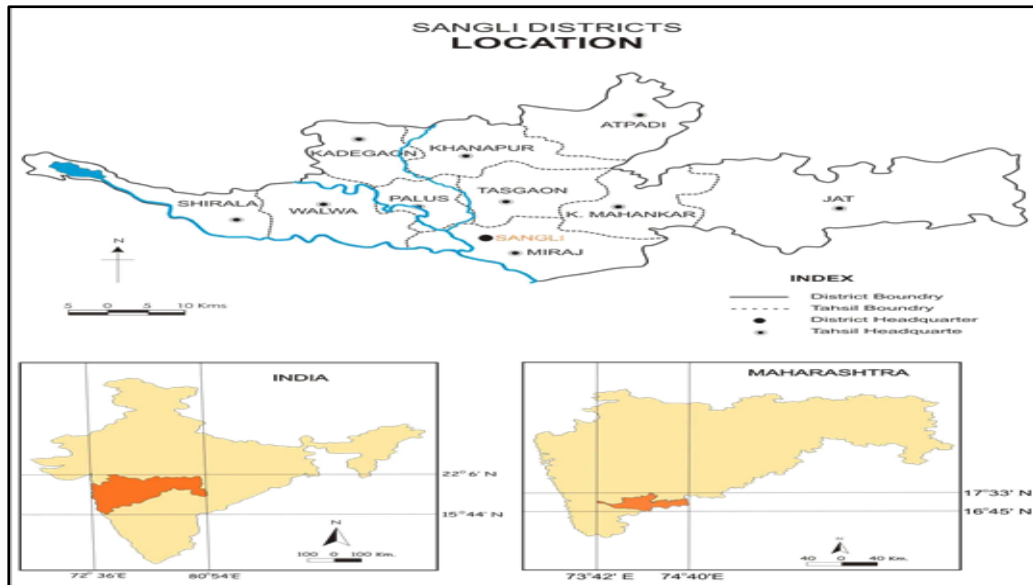


Fig. 1

Sangli district is bounded by Satara district on the north western side and the district of Belgaum and Bijapur in the state of Karnataka on the south. Kolhapur and Ratnagiri district lies on the west of Sangli district. Administratively Sangli district containing ten tehsils comprising 8,572 sq. km. area of supporting 28, 20,575 populations and density of population is 326 people per sq. km. according to 2011 census. The study region has a well-developed drainage pattern by Krishna, Warna, Yerala, Agrani, Nanni and Bor.

### Objective

Objectives of the present research paper is

1. To analyze and find out socio-economic status of the study region at the tehsil level.
2. To making a planning strategies for improving the status of socio-economic development in the study area.

### Data and Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary source of data which is obtained from the district gazetteers, district statistical department, socio-economic review and statistical abstract of Sangli district 2023-24, reference books etc. In this research paper, twelve variables have been selected for measuring the status of socio-economic development of each tehsils of the district. Kendall's ranking co-efficient method is used to determine the socio-economic status of the study region. For that purpose, co-efficient index is calculated for each tehsil of the study region. Co-efficient index value is inversely related to the status of development i. e. lower the index more development and higher the index low development. For calculation of co-efficient index, Kendall's following formula is used.

$$\text{Co-efficient index} = \sum R/N$$

Where,  $\sum R$  = Sum of the all ranks,  $N$  = Numbers of variables

Collected data is processed and represented with Choropleth map by using QGIS technique.

### **Status of Socio-economic Development**

Twelve variables are collectively considered to measure the status of socio-economic development in the study area. They are as follows

- R1. Percentage of literate population to the total population
- R2. Availability of health facilities
- R3. Number of Post offices
- R4. Number of Police Stations
- R5. Number of Police personnel
- R6. Percentage of gross irrigated area to gross cropped area
- R7. Percentage of net sown area to total geographical area
- R8. Percentage of agricultural credit societies
- R9. Percentage of area under cash crops to gross cropped area (Sugarcane, Total Fruits & Soybean)
- R10. Sugarcane Productivity (in thousand tons / hectare)
- R11. Use of Fertilizers (in metric tons) per 100 ha net sown area
- R12. Number of Factories available

Co-efficient index for each tehsil has been calculated using the data on the above twelve indicators, which is shown in table no. 1.1. Based on the Co-efficient index, status of socio-economic development is classified into three categories. i.e. high, moderate and low. Table no. 1.2 shows the classes about status of socio-economic development in each tehsil of the study region.

#### **1. High Developed Region**

In the study area, there are three tehsils namely Walwa, Miraj and Palus included in this category. All three tehsils are located in the central and western part of the Sangli district. In this region literate population, health facilities, number post office, number of police station, number of police personnel, percentage of net sown area to total geographical area, percentage of agricultural credit societies, percentage of area under cash crops, sugarcane productivity and availability number of factories are very better than other tehsils of the study region. Walwa and Miraj tehsil is most developed tehsil in whole of the region with 2.75 co-efficient index value due to the highly developed in agricultural and industrial sector. All three tahsils are located in river basin area, black soil, moderate rainfall and adequate availability of water for irrigation resulted in high sugarcane cultivation. Soybean is also important cash crop highly cultivated in Walwa tahsil due to amount of rainfall and deep black soil. These cash crops give good return to farmers.

Table 1.1

Sangli District: Ranking Co-efficient Index of Socio-economic variables (2023-24)

Tahsils	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	ΣR	Co-effi. Index
Shirala	7	3	8	5	8	6	10	2	6	6	2	7	70	5.83
Walwa	2	2	3	2	2	8	2	1	2	1	6	2	33	2.75
Palus	1	8	6	3	3	3	1	10	1	4	1	5	46	3.83
Kadegaon	6	7	7	4	7	1	6	8	3	3	3	3	58	4.83
Khanapur	5	9	5	8	6	4	8	9	4	5	5	4	72	6
Atpadi	9	5	10	10	10	9	9	5	8	9	8	10	102	8.5
Tasgaon	4	6	2	7	5	7	4	4	7	8	9	6	69	5.75
Miraj	3	1	1	1	1	2	5	7	5	2	4	1	33	2.75
K. Mahankal	8	10	4	9	9	5	7	6	9	10	7	8	93	7.67
Jath	10	4	9	6	4	10	3	3	10	7	10	9	84	7.08

Source: Computed by researcher based on Socio-Economic Review of Sangli District, 2024

Table 1.2 Sangli District: Status of Socio-economic Development (2023-24)

Status of Development	Scale Value	No. of Tehsils	Name of Tehsils
High Developed Region	Below 4	03	Walwa, Miraj, Palus
Moderately Developed Region	4 to 8	06	Kadegaon, Tasgaon, Shirala, Khanapur, Jath, K. Mahankal
Low Developed Region	Above 8	01	Atpadi

Source: Computed by researcher based on Socio-Economic Review of Sangli District, 2024

## 2. Moderately Developed Region

In this categories consist of six tahsils i. e. Kadegaon, Tasgaon, Shirala, Khanapur, Jath, Kavathemahankal tahsils of the study region. These tahsils achieved moderate socio-economic development due to dominance of three to four variables such percentage of gross irrigated area to gross cropped area, percentage of agricultural credit societies, use of fertilizers per hundred hectare net sown area and availability of number of post offices etc. Fruit crop like grapes is grown in Tasgaon and Khanapur tahsils. It is mainly raised in the areas of grape cultivation, availability of suitable climate, well-drained soil, availability of irrigation, innovation of farmers and skilled workers, constant efforts, proper planning of cultivation methods and development of advanced technology in the central part of Sangli district.

### 3. Low Developed Region

In this category there are only one Atpadi tahsil included with 8.5 co-efficient index values. This tahsil are located in the eastern part of the study region and have lack of infrastructural, educational, health facilities and very less agricultural developed compared to other tehsils of Sangli district. Literate population, number post office, number of police station, number of police personnel and availability number of factories are very less in this tehsil. Atpadi tehsil is agricultural less developed due to eastern part of Sangli district has drought prone area, scarcity of water supply, uncertain and vagaries of monsoon. Therefore, this part of the study area is not very socio-economically developed.

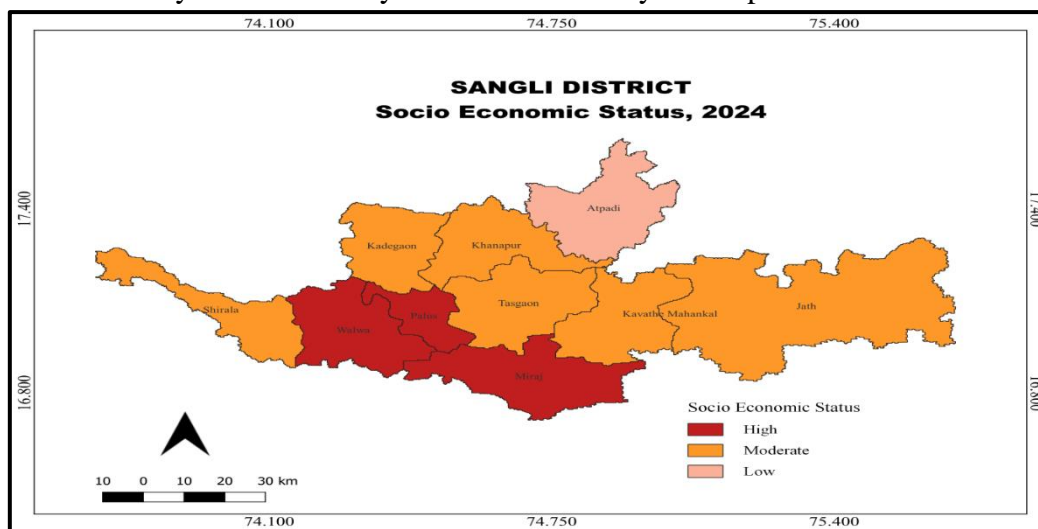


Fig. 2

### Conclusion

Sangli district is well known district of western Maharashtra, but overall socio-economic status of the district is medium class. In Sangli district Walwa and Miraj tehsil has high socio-economic developed, because of literate population, health facilities, number post offices, number of police stations, number of police personnel, percentage of net sown area to total geographical area, percentage of agricultural credit societies, percentage of area under cash crops, sugarcane productivity and availability number of factories are very better than other tehsils of the district. Six tehsils i. e. Kadegaon, Tasgaon, Shirala, Khanapur, Jath, Kavathemahankal tehsils of the study region are medium developed due to dominance of three to four variables. All these high and medium developed tehsils are lying in the central and western part of the study region. Only Atpadi tehsil come under low socio-economic developed region and lying eastern part of study region where lack of infrastructural, educational, health facilities also very less agricultural developed compared to other tehsils of Sangli district.

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