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Comparative Study of Population Growth in Nashik Division and Maharashtra State (Census 1991 to 2011)

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Introduction:

The concept of population change or growth of population is often used to connote the change in the number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time, irrespective of the fact that whether the change is negative or positive. The growth of population means any change in population number, further it refers to the growth of the human population in a particular area during a specific period of time, if this change is in negative direction then population decreases and if it is in positive direction then the population increases.

The population growth is the most deep-seated demographic process and all other demographic features are allied with it either directly or indirectly. Geographical study of population growth of a region, therefore, is of a vital importance for understanding its dynamics as well as planning at the local and regional levels.

Study Region:

The division is located in the north-west of Maharashtra State. The division lies between 18°2' to 22°03' North Latitude and 73°16' to 76°28' East Longitude. The region has major portion under flat topography, hence it supports high concentration of population. Nashik division comprises of 5 districts and 54 tahsils. The geographical area of the region is 56,577 Sq.KM. According to 2011 census, the total population of the Nashik Division was 1,85,79,420. Out of total population, male population was 95,84,577 and female population was 89,94,843.

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Analysis:

A systematic census was organized in the year 1891 in the country. Some districts in the Nashik divisions were newly created between 1981 to 2011. On 1st July 1998 Dhule district was divided in two districts viz. Nandurbar and Dhule.

Table 1 presents the decadal growth pattern of population in Nashik Division since 1901 to 2011 and also of Maharashtra. The same statistics of Maharashtra state has also shown for comparative purpose.

Table 1

**Growth of Population in Maharashtra State and Nashik Division
(Census 1901 to 2011)**

Census	Maharashtra State Population	Growth rate of Maharashtra Total	Population of Nashik Division	Growth rate of Nashik Division
1901	19391142	--	3,047,535	-
1911	21476892	10.76	3,431,138	12.59
1921	20851282	-2.91	3,230,339	-5.85
1931	23964152	14.93	3,894,137	20.55
1941	26839651	12	4,418,839	13.47
1951	32005412	19.25	5,374,991	21.64
1961	39552541	23.58	6,750,775	25.60
1971	50414725	27.46	8,427,746	24.84
1981	62786512	24.54	10,372,798	23.08
1991	78937187	25.72	12,947,636	24.82
2001	96878627	22.73	15,736,784	21.54
2011	112372972	15.99	18,579,420	18.06

Source: Census Handbook 1991, 2001 & 2011.

Table 1 shows the increasing trend of population in Nashik Division as well as Maharashtra state. According to 1901 census, total population of Maharashtra state was

19391142 and it increased upto 13275898 in 2011. It means in last century, the population of the state increased by 17.25 times.

Unlike, census 1901 reveals that, the division had 30,47,535 population which increased upto 1,85,79,420 as per 2011. It accounts to 16.53% to total population of Maharashtra state. This shows the increase in population by 6.10 times which is higher than the Maharashtra state general increase i.e.5.80 times. The state statistics of population shows 16.76% increase during last century.

Highest growth rate of Maharashtra state population was observed from 1971 census, i.e. 27.46% whereas lowest increase was observed from 1911, i.e. 10.76%. Negative growth rate was observed in 1921 and that was -2.91%. Census 1921 has shown negative trend all over the India.

The abandon increase rate in population is observed before and after independence. Categorization of percentage growth reveals that, below 15% growth in Maharashtra state population has been observed from census of 1931 (14.93%), 1941 (12.00%) and 1911 (10.76%) whereas 15% to 25% growth has been observed from the census of 1981 (24.54%), 1961 (23.58%), 2001 (23.73%), 1951 (19.25%), and 2011 (15.99%). Remaining census like 1971 & 1991 has shown above 30% growth rate in population. In regard with population, it has shown up and down from 1901 to 2011.

In regard with Nashik division population, highest population growth rate of population was observed from 1961 census, i.e. 25.60% whereas lowest increase was observed from 1911, i.e. 12.59%. Negative growth rate was observed in 1921 and that was -5.85%. Census 1921 has shown negative trend all over the India.

Categorization of percentage growth reveals that, below 20% growth in Nasik division population has been observed from census of 2011 (18.06%), 1941 (13.47%),

and 1911 (12.59%) whereas 20% to 25% growth has been observed from the census of 1971 (24.84%), 1991 (24.82%), 1981 (23.08%), 1951 (21.64%), 2001 (21.54%), and 1931 (20.55%). Remaining census i.e. 1961 has shown above 25% growth rate in population. In regard with population, it has shown up and down from 1901 to 2011. Comparison of both Maharashtra state and Nashik division shows that, Nashik division has overall more population growth rate than Maharashtra state.

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