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Assessment of Transport and Communication Facilities: A Case Study of Aurangabad District (MS)

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Abstract:

Communication & Transport Facilities plays vital role in development of any region. Transportation facilities increases mobility, expands trade and commerce, and minimizes the difficulties of movement. Author has tried to study the communication and transport facilities in the Aurangabad district. About 430 villages (32.72 percent) constituting 59.66 percent of rural population of the District have facility of post and telegraph. The facility of telephone is available in 1,237 villages constituting 94.14 percent of inhabited villages and covering 98.99 percent of rural population of the District. 1,122 (85.39 percent) villages with transport facility serving 97.47 percent of the rural population, 99.72 percent of remaining villages have transport facility. The district has sufficient transport and communication facilities, still it requires qualitative improvement.

Keywords: Transport, Communication, Telegraph

Introduction:

Transport and communication facilities plays significant role in development of region. Transportation also plays important role in distribution of population. Population densities are observed high in low-lying flat areas and coastal plains due to ease of transportation and density of population is observed low in hilly area. Transportation facilities increases mobility, expands trade and commerce, and minimizes the difficulties of movement. With the development of the modern transport system urban growth is concentrating in large cities and towns.

Study Region:

Aurangabad district has been selected as study area. Aurangabad district is situated in the central part of the state, which has been incised by the Godavari River and its tributaries in the southern part. Aurangabad is considered as capital of Marathwada region. Aurangabad district is situated between 19°18' to 20°40' north latitudes and 74°40' and 75°36' east longitudes. Total area of the district is 10,100 Sq.Kms which is 3.28% of Maharashtra. Out of total area 1.40% is Urban Area and remaining 98.60% is Rural Area. The district comprises of nine tehsils, i.e. 1. Aurangabad 2. Gangapur 3. Kannad 4. Khuldabad 5. Paithan 6. Phulambri 7. Sillod 8. Socgaon and 9. Vaijapur.

According to the 2011 census Aurangabad district, Maharashtra has a population of 1,695,928, roughly equal to the nation of Liberia. This gives it a ranking of 72nd in India (out of a total of 640). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 27.33%. Aurangabad has a sex ratio of 917 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 80.4%.

Objectives:

The present study has specific objective, i.e. To study the communication and transport in Aurangabad district.

**Database and Methodology:**

The present work is based on secondary data pertaining to communication and transport facilities for the census 2011. All relevant published and unpublished records have been considered. The secondary data has been collected from district census hand book, Gazetteer, district statistical abstracts and socio-economic abstracts.

Communication and Transport Facilities:**Table-1****Distribution of villages with Post office, telephone and Bus Service**

Village not having the amenity of	Distance range of place from the villages where the amenity is available			
	Less than kilometres	5-10 kilometres	10+ kilometres	Total
Post office-	321	331	232	884
Telephone	77	0	0	77
Bus service	175	19	0	194

Source: Census Handbook, 2011

Post office :

Out of 1,314 inhabited villages, 430 villages (32.72 percent) constituting 59.66 percent of rural population of the District have facility of post and telegraph in their respective jurisdiction. Among 9 C.D. Blocks of the District, the percentage of villages having facility of post and telegraph varies considerably. In Sillod C.D. Block the post office facility is available to 67.6 percent of villages followed by Vaijapur and Paithan C. D. Blocks recording 65.22 percent and 61.33 percent respectively.

Posts and telegraph facilities are not available in 884 villages. Out of these, 321 villages are situated at a distance of less than 5 kms from where such facility is available. Further, 331 villages have post office facility at distance between 5-10 kms and in case of 232 villages it is available at a distance more than 10 kms. Regarding distribution of villages with facility of posts according to distance from nearest statutory town, it can be seen that, 13 villages are located at a distance of less than 5 Kms., 117 villages are located at a distance of 5-15 Kms. and 295 villages are located at a distance of 16-50 Kms. and 5 villages are located at a distance of 51 Kms. and above.

Distribution of villages according to their population size range and facilities available shows that all villages with population 5000 and above have the facility of post office within the village, whereas in case of villages with population less than 500, none of the village has a post office. About 13.93 percent of villages in range of 500-999 population, 30.97 percent in the range 1000-1999 and 78.97 percent in the range of 2000-4999 population have the post office in their village.



Table-2

Distribution of villages according to the distance from the nearest statutory town, 2011

Distance Range from the nearest Statutory Town (In Kilometres)	Number\Percentage	Number of Inhabited Villages in Each Range	Post office	Telephone
Less than 5	Number	39	13	36
	Percentage		33.33	92.31
5 - 15	Number	319	117	300
	Percentage		36.68	94.04
16- 50	Number	936	295	886
	Percentage		31.52	94.66
51+	Number	20	5	15
	Percentage		25.00	75.00
Unspecified	Number	0	0	0
	Percentage		0.00	0.00
Total	Number	1314	430	1237
	Percentage		32.72	94.14

Source: Census Handbook, 2011

Table-3

Transport and communication facilities and distance range from the nearest statutory

Distance Range from the nearest Statutory Town (In Kilometres)	Number\Percentage	Transport Communication	Approach by Pucca Road
Less than 5	Number	34	30
	Percentage	87.18	76.92
5 - 15	Number	273	282
	Percentage	85.58	88.40
16- 50	Number	802	851
	Percentage	85.68	90.92
51+	Number	13	18
	Percentage	65.00	90.00
Unspecified	Number	0	0
	Percentage	0.00	0.00
Total	Number	1122	1181
	Percentage	85.39	89.88

Source: Census Handbook, 2011

Telephone :

The facility of telephone is available in 1,237 villages constituting 94.14 percent of inhabited villages and covering 98.99 percent of rural population of the District. It may be seen that, Sillod C.D. Block with 99.87 percent has the highest proportion of total population whereas

Soegaon C.D. Block with 97.38 percent the lowest. Sillod (99.87 percent), Phulambari (99.63 percent), Aurangabad (99.45 percent), Vaijapur (99.0 percent) and Paithan (99.06 percent) C.D. Blocks have reported higher proportion of population than the District average (98.99 percent). It is observed that, telephone facility is not available in case of 77 villages only. All these 77 villages are situated at a distance of less than 5 kms from the nearest place having telephone facility.

The facility of telephone is available in the villages located at a distance of less than 5 kms. in case of 36 villages, at a distance of 5-15 Kms. in case of 300 villages, at a distance of 16-50 Kms. in case of 886 villages and in case of remaining 15 villages the distance is 51 kms and above from nearest statutory town where such facility is available. Distribution of villages according to the population size range and facilities available shows that all villages with population 500 and above have the telephone facility. Only in case of small villages in size range less than 500 population also 66.52 percent of villages have the facility of telephone.

Transport and communications :

Transport and communications includes bus service, rail facility and navigable waterways. If a bus stop, or a railway station or navigable waterway is located within the territorial jurisdiction of a village, it is considered to have been served by such a facility even if it is little away from the actual settlement.

There are 1,122 (85.39 percent) villages with transport facility serving 97.47 percent of the rural population. Sillod C.D. Block constituting 95.28 percent of total villages have reported the highest proportion of villages where transport/ communication facility is available and Soegaon C.D. Block with 76.92 percent of villages reported the least. Out of 1,314 inhabited villages 194 villages do not have any such facility in their respective jurisdiction. The residents of 175 villages have to cover a distance 5 kms or less to reach a place with such a facility and in case of 19 villages it is at a distance between 5-10 kms. The villages with the facility of transport and communications located at a distance less than 5 kms in case of 34 villages, at a distance of 5-15 Kms in case of 273 villages, at a distance of 16-50 Kms in case of 802 villages and in case of remaining 13 villages the distance is 51 Kms and above.

Distribution of villages according to their population size range and facilities available shows that all villages with population 1000 and above have the transport facility. In case of small villages with population less than 500, only 16.96 percent of them have this facility. In the range 500-999 population out of 359 villages, only one village is not having this facility and all the 99.72 percent of remaining villages have transport facility. The picture of communication and transport in Aurangabad shows that the district has adequate facilities. It is essential to enrich and extent them in the course of time as per need.

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