



Original Article

Population Dynamics and Socio-Economic Indicators of Villages in Baramati Taluka, Maharashtra

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Abstract

This research investigates the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of villages in Baramati Taluka, Pune District, and Maharashtra. The study examines variables such as population density, sex ratio, literacy rate, child sex ratio, proportion of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), labor participation, cultivators, industrial workers, and access to facilities. With a focus on comparative village-level analysis, the project identifies regional disparities and socio-economic trends that affect rural development. The findings highlight imbalances in gender ratios, education levels, and occupational structures and provide insight into planning policies for balanced rural growth. The present study examines the population dynamics and socio-economic indicators of selected villages in Baramati Taluka, Maharashtra, using secondary data from the Census of India (2011) and field-based observations. It highlights micro-level variations in demographic features such as population density, sex ratio, literacy rate, caste composition, and occupational structures. The findings indicate that villages with better infrastructure and economic opportunities—like Rui and Malshikarewadi—exhibit higher literacy and population density, whereas villages such as Mekhai and Sasterwadi lag behind in educational and gender-related indicators. Occupational analysis reveals that agriculture remains the dominant livelihood source, though industrial employment is gradually emerging in certain areas. The study underscores the need for balanced rural development, emphasizing education, gender equity, and infrastructural enhancement to achieve equitable socio-economic progress across Baramati Taluka.

Keywords: Baramati Taluka; Population Dynamics; Socio-Economic Indicators; Literacy Rate; Sex Ratio; Rural Development; Occupational Structure; Caste Composition; Sustainable Growth

Introduction

Maharashtra is one of India's most industrially and agriculturally advanced states. Located in the western region of India, it is the third-largest state in terms of area and second in terms of population. Baramati Taluka, situated in the southern part of Pune District, has historically faced low rainfall and an agriculturally dependent economy. Understanding population dynamics and socio-economic indicators at the micro (village) level is essential for sustainable development, effective planning, and equitable resource distribution.

Literature Review

Previous studies on rural demographics have emphasized the significance of literacy, occupational distribution, and caste-based population distribution in assessing development. The 2011 Census of India has served as a foundation for analyzing village-level disparities. Studies in rural Maharashtra have shown how low rainfall and poor infrastructure contribute to uneven population distribution and economic challenges. However, detailed micro-level comparisons among villages within a single taluka like Baramati remain limited. This study aims to fill that gap.

Aims and Objectives

Primary Aim:

To conduct a comparative demographic and socio-economic study of selected villages in Baramati Taluka.

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Objectives:

1. To analyze population density across different villages.
2. To examine gender ratio, child sex ratio, and literacy levels.
3. To assess the proportion of SC and ST populations.
4. To investigate occupational structures, including cultivators, laborers, and industrial workers.
5. To identify regional disparities in socio-economic development.

Study Area

Baramati Taluka lies in the southern part of Pune District, Maharashtra. It covers an area characterized by semi-arid climatic conditions, with low and erratic rainfall. The region consists of both agriculturally dominant and industrially emerging villages. Villages such as Rui, Waki, Umbarwadi, and Malshikarewadi represent diverse socio-economic backgrounds.



Methodology

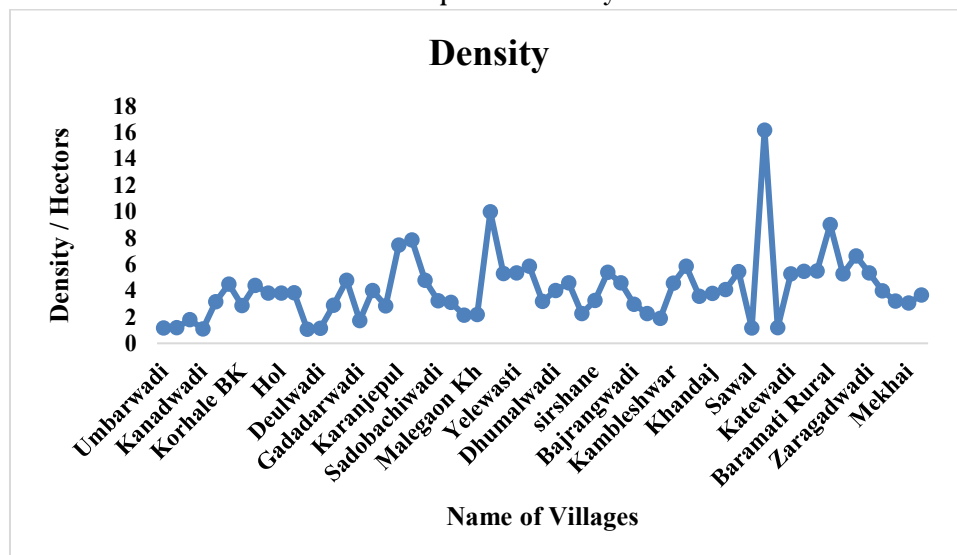
The study uses **secondary data** primarily sourced from the 2011 Indian Census and supplemented with structured village-level data extracted from field research. Key indicators were compiled in tabular format, and comparative analysis was conducted for parameters such as:

- ❖ Population density
- ❖ Literacy rate
- ❖ Sex and child sex ratio
- ❖ Caste-wise population percentage
- ❖ Occupational classification (workers, cultivators, industrial workers)

Statistical tools like percentage analysis, bar diagrams, and comparative charts were used to visualize disparities.

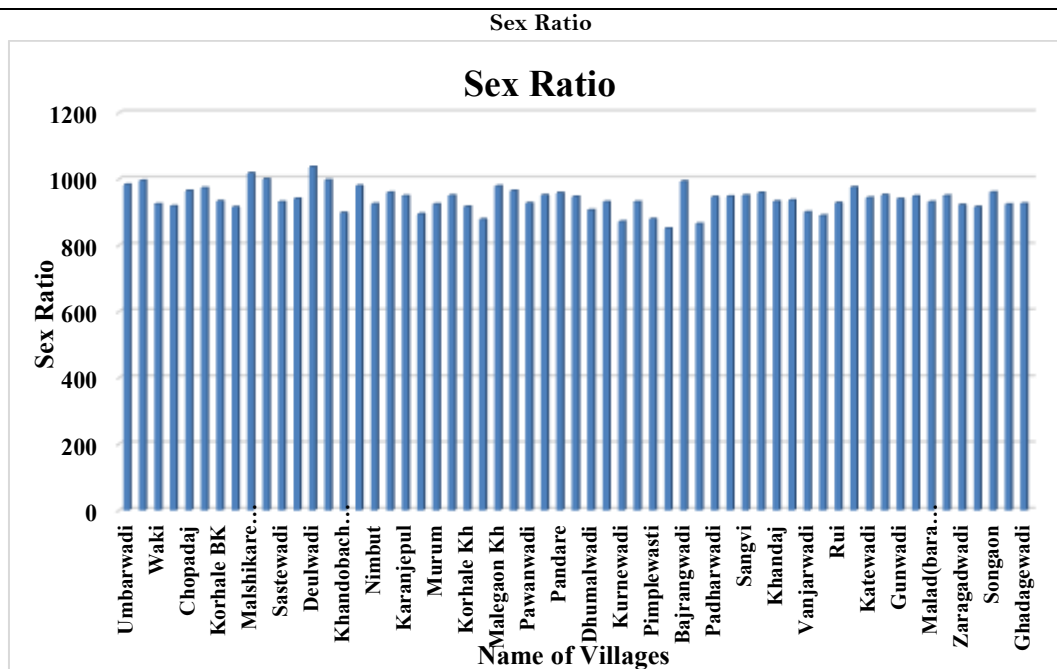
Analysis and Discussion

❖ Population Density



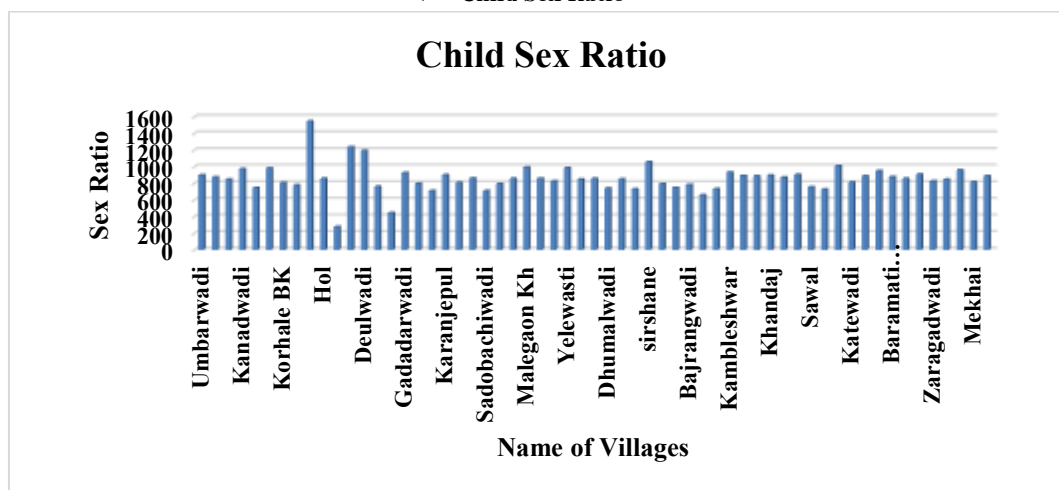
The highest density was observed in **Rui (16.15 persons/hectare)** due to better transportation and economic facilities.

Umbarwadi (1.15) and **Waki (1.79)** show low density due to lack of infrastructure.



Balanced or high sex ratios in **Deulwadi (1036.86)** and **Malshikarewadi (1017.72)**. Low sex ratios in **Late (865.01)** and **Malwadi (851.13)** indicate possible gender imbalance.

❖ **Child Sex Ratio**



Highest in **Malshikarewadi (1550)** and **Sirshane (1058.82)**. Alarmingly low in **Sastewadi (278.02)** and **Khandobachiwadi (447.06)**, pointing to gender-based disparities.

❖ **Literacy Rate**

Murum (89.69%), **Malshikarewadi (80.55%)**, and **Gunwadi (73.67%)** show high literacy. **Mekhai (56.12%)** and **Sastewadi (65.44%)** lag behind, indicating educational challenges.

❖ **Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST)**

SC population is highest in **Karanje (38.49%)**, **Malad Baramati (33.56%)**. ST population is minimal across the taluka; maximum seen in **Gadadarwadi (5.85%)**.

❖ **Occupational Structure**

Villages like **Pandhare**, **Dhumalwadi**, and **Zaragadwadi** show higher cultivator percentages. **Dolrewadi**, **Korhale KH** have more industrial workers. **Gunwadi (35.94%)** and **Deulwadi (37.62%)** also have high numbers of “other workers”.

Key Indicators Summary

Indicator	Highest Observation	Lowest Observation	Implications
Population Density	Rui (16.15)	Kanadwadi (1.09), Umbarwadi (1.15)	High density indicates better amenities; low density reflects poor infrastructure.
Sex Ratio (Females/1000 Males)	Deulwadi (1036.86), Malshikarewadi (1017.72)	Malwadi (851.13), Vanjarwadi (900.00)	Imbalanced sex ratios can affect social structure and gender equity.
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years)	Malshikarewadi (1550.00), Sirshane (1058.82)	Sastewadi (278.02), Khandobachiwadi (447.06)	Extreme disparities raise concern over female child survival and gender bias.

SC Population (%)	Karanje (38.49%), Malad Baramati (33.56%)	Deulwadi, Umbarwadi (0%)	Concentration of SC population informs targeted welfare programs.
ST Population (%)	Gadadarwadi (5.85%), Nimbut (5.63%)	Multiple villages (0%)	Indicates limited tribal presence; minimal in Baramati overall.
Literacy Rate (%)	Murum (89.69%), Malshikarewadi (80.55%)	Mekhai (56.12%), Sastewadi (65.44%)	Educational infrastructure is uneven; development needed in low-literacy villages.
Workers Participation (%)	Chaudharywadi (62.58%), Gadadarwadi (64.88%)	Deulwadi (36.55%), Rui (36.97%)	Reflects labor engagement; lower figures may signal economic dependency.
Cultivators (%)	Chaudharywadi (43.71%), Magarwadi (45.52%)	Rui (3.96%), Baramati Rural (3.74%)	Agriculture remains dominant, but industrialization is growing in some villages.
Industrial Workers (%)	Dolrewadi (13.53%), Korhale KH (5.99%)	Many villages have <1% industrial workers	Industrial employment is concentrated in select villages only.
Other Workers (%)	Gunwadi (35.94%), Deulwadi (37.62%)	Magarwadi (4.27%), Umbarwadi (8.86%)	Non-agricultural occupations gaining traction in developed villages.

Conclusion

The study reveals stark contrasts among Baramati's villages in terms of population density, gender ratios, education levels, and economic occupations. While some villages show balanced growth in terms of literacy and employment, others face challenges such as low female ratios, limited education access, and minimal industrial engagement.

Key insights:

- ❖ Infrastructure plays a crucial role in population concentration and economic development.
- ❖ Social indicators like child sex ratio and literacy vary significantly and need targeted intervention.
- ❖ Policy efforts should aim at improving education, promoting female empowerment, and enhancing rural infrastructure to balance growth across all villages.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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