



## A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF WEEKLY MARKET CENTERS IN CONCENTRATION OF HUMAN POPULATION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

Market is vital indicator of regional development have balanced the rural economy in India. In fact, farmers, retailers and consumers come together to exchange goods ranging from agricultural produce to household items. Market centres are not only local trading centres but also essential centers that balance the local economy. They facilitate the buying and selling of various commodities, allowing people to exchange ideas and information. There are two types of market centres like Daily Market centre and weekly market centre, among that, weekly market centres play a significant role in the socio-economic and cultural life of rural and semi-urban areas.

India is country of rural area which is dotted with numerous market centres spread across its various regions. In Maharashtra state, Mumbai is financial capital of the country and this is one of the largest market centres that playing a central role in the exchange of goods and services at the national level. In Solapur district, each market center is not just a commercial hub, but an important factor in shaping population distribution and settlement patterns. By providing essential goods, services, and employment, weekly markets influence where people live and how settlements grow.

Hence, Solapur district is chosen for research study which explores the impact of weekly market centres on population concentration in Solapur district. In research study, there is used secondary data, some statistical analysis and GIS mapping. Overall study focuses on 11 tahsils of district and surveys 142 market centres and analyses their relationship with population concentration, number of inhabited villages and area size. The findings reveal significant differences across tahsil's, with Mangalwedha and Sangola showing higher market and population concentration, while North Solapur shows relatively lower market and population concentration.

**KEYWORDS:** Weekly Market Centres, Population Concentration, Rural Development, Spatial Distribution, Socio-Economic Impact, GIS Analysis.

### INTRODUCTION

Market centres are a key indicator of regional development in balancing the rural economy of India. Market centres serve as important exchange centre where farmers, retailers and consumers come together to exchange a variety of goods, from agricultural produce to household items. These market centres are not just places of trade but these are essential contributors to the local economy. They facilitate the buying and selling of goods and provide a place for people to exchange ideas and

information. There are two main types of market centres: daily market centres and weekly market centres. Of these, weekly market centres play an important role in the socio-economic and cultural life of rural and semi-urban areas. India being mostly rural area which is home to numerous market centres spread across its various regions. In Maharashtra state, Mumbai city is the financial capital of country that stands as one of the largest market centres and playing a central role in the exchange of goods and services at the national and international levels. Weekly market centres play a vital role in the socio-economic and cultural fabric of rural and semi-urban areas. These markets serve as important centres for the exchange of goods, services and ideas, for promoting economic activities and for fostering social interactions within rural communities. In Solapur district of Maharashtra, weekly market centres are not only economic institutions; they also play a significant role in shaping the spatial distribution and concentration of human population. The presence of these markets often influences settlement patterns by providing essential goods, services and employment opportunities, which attracts people to settle in and around these centres. This study aims to explore how weekly market centres in Solapur district contribute to population concentration, thereby underlining their importance in economic and demographic development.

### STUDY AREA

The study area is located in the southern part of Maharashtra, encompassing the region between 17°10' to 18°32' North latitude and 74°42' to 76°15' East longitude. It is bounded to the east by the Osmanabad district and Gulbarga district (Karnataka State), to the south by the Sangli district and Bijapur district (Karnataka State), to the west by the Satara district and Pune district, and to the north by the Ahmednagar district and Osmanabad district. The total area of the district covers 14,895 square kilometers, with an average elevation of 500 meters (1,805 feet) above sea level. The region is made up of 1,150 inhabited villages and 10 urban centers. According to 2011 Census, the district has a population of 4,317,756, with a population concentration of nearly 290 persons per square kilometer and a sex ratio of 938 females per 1,000 males. For administrative purposes, the district is divided into 11 tahsils: Malshiras, Sangola, Pandharpur, Mangalwedha, Mohol, Madha, Karmala, Akkalkot, Barshi, South Solapur, and North Solapur. The district has 142 weekly market centers, which serve as vital economic and social hubs for the rural population. The district receives an average annual rainfall of 561 mm, and the climate is predominantly monsoon, with seasonal temperature variations ranging from a maximum of 46°C in the summer to a minimum of 9°C in the winter. The area is known to be drought-prone, facing significant water shortages for domestic and agricultural purposes during the summer months.

## LOCATION MAP

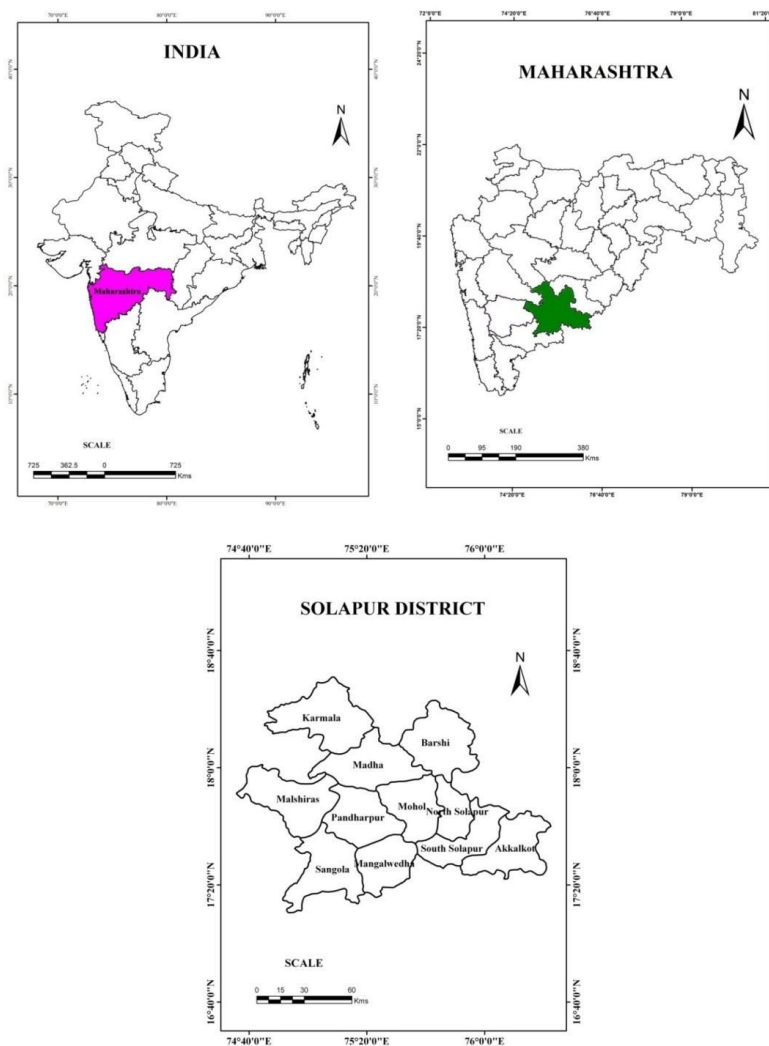


Fig. No. 1

### OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the spatial distribution of weekly market centers in Solapur district.
2. To analyze the spatial distribution of Human Population and its concentration in Solapur district.
3. To examine the relationship between weekly market centers and the concentration of human population.

### DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

Data is an essential tool in any research, which helps in drawing accurate conclusions and facilitating the study. For this research, data has been collected from various sources, including both published and unpublished literature. This study is based on secondary data collected from district gazetteers, census handbooks, socio-economic reviews, and records from the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and Gram Panchayat (GP) offices. The data has been analyzed using statistical tools such as the Standard Deviation method to measure dispersion and GIS techniques for spatial representation. The study focuses on 11 taluqs of Solapur district, which collectively cover an area of 14,895.40 sq. km and have a population of 4,315,527 (2011 Census). Following Formula used for Data Calculation

$$\text{Population Concentration} = \frac{\text{Total Human Population}}{\text{Total Area}}$$

$$\text{Market Centre to Population Concentration Ratio} = \frac{\text{Number of Weekly Market Centres}}{\text{Population Concentration}}$$

### WEEKLY MARKET CENTERS

The distribution of weekly market centres in Solapur district is highly uneven across its tahsils. Out of 142 market centres, the percentage distribution varies significantly. Sangola tahsil leads the way, with a 13.38% share of market centres, while North Solapur tahsil has the lowest distribution. This difference indicates a clear difference in the concentration of market centres in the district.

**TABLE NO.1**  
**WEEKLY MARKET CENTERS : SOLAPUR DISTRICT**

Sr. No.	Name of Tahsil	No. of Weekly Market Centers	Weekly Market Centers in %
1	Akkalkot	15	10.56
2	Barshi	16	11.27
3	Karmala	10	7.04
4	Madha	13	9.15
5	Malshiras	14	9.86
6	Mangalwedha	18	12.68
7	Mohol	9	6.34
8	North Solapur	6	4.23
9	Pandharpur	13	9.15
10	Sangola	19	13.38
11	South Solapur	9	6.34
Total		142	100

Source: Socio-economic review of Solapur district 2011

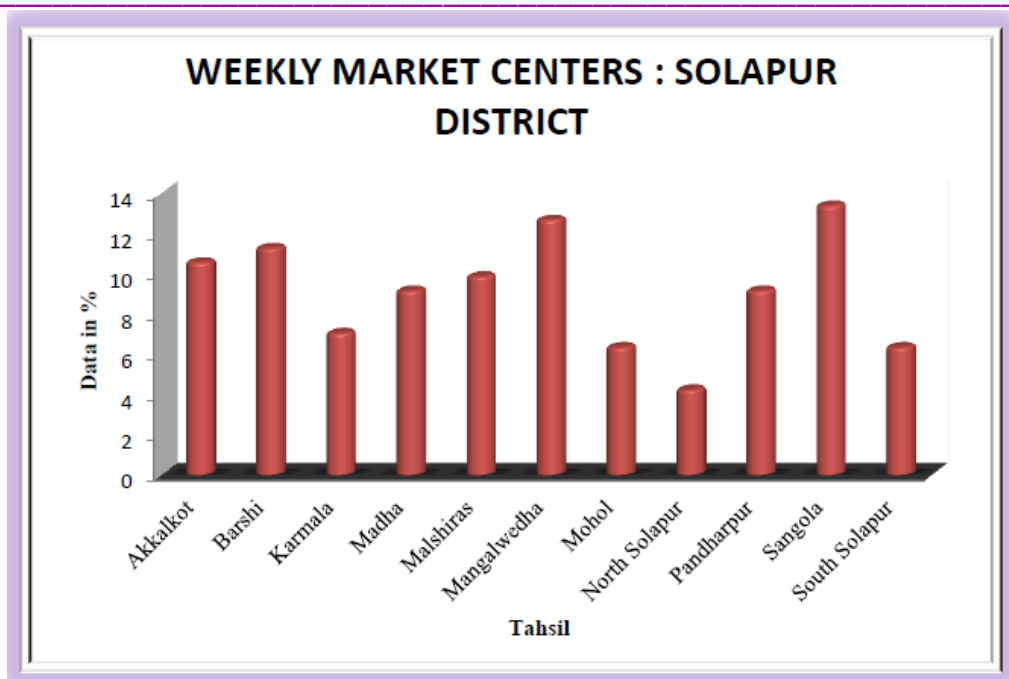


Fig.No.2

Above Table No.1 and Fig. No.2 shows Weekly Market Centers in Solapur District

The distribution of weekly market centres in the tahsils of Solapur district is shown in the table, which is classified as high, medium and low according to the number of market centres. Sangola tahsil (19), Mangalwedha tahsil (18), Barshi tahsil (16) and Akkalkot tahsil (15) have a high number of market centres (16-19). These tahsils have a large rural population and significant agricultural activities, which creates a demand for frequent market exchanges. The high number of market centres in these areas is due to the need to support agricultural trade and provide essential goods and services to the rural population. Malshiras tahsil (14), Madha tahsil (13) and Pandharpur tahsil (13) have a moderate number of market centres (10-15). The area has a balanced mix of rural settlements and agricultural activities, which requires a moderate number of market centres to meet local needs. Pandharpur tahsil, with its religious importance, has a moderate market demand due to trade related to agriculture and tourism. Finally, the number of market centres is low (6-9) in Karmala tahsil (10), Mohol tahsil (9), South Solapur tahsil (9) and North Solapur tahsil (6). There are fewer market centres in these tahsils, especially in the urbanised areas of South Solapur and North Solapur tahsil, as trade and commerce are concentrated in fewer, more centralised urban markets. The reason for the low number of markets in these regions is urbanisation, which reduces the need for many rural markets.

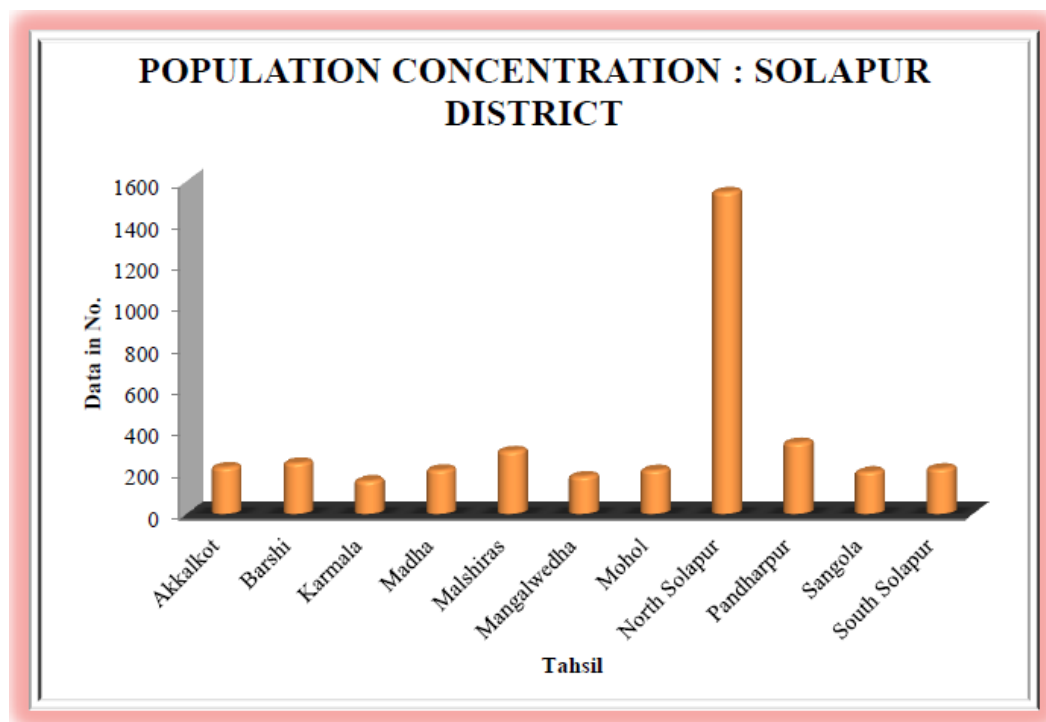
### POPULATION CONCENTRATION

In Solapur district, Population concentration varies significantly in all tahsil. North Solapur tahsil leads with the highest population concentration (22.2%), while the lowest population concentration (2.3%) is found in Karmala tahsil. This difference indicates a clear difference in the concentration of population in the district.

**TABLE NO.2**  
**POPULATION CONCENTRATION : SOLAPUR DISTRICT**

Sr. No.	Name of Tahsil	Population Concentration	Population Concentration in %
1	Akkalkot	224	5.83
2	Barshi	245	6.38
3	Karmala	159	4.14
4	Madha	212	5.52
5	Malshiras	302	7.86
6	Mangalwedha	180	4.69
7	Mohol	210	5.47
8	North Solapur	1548	40.29
9	Pandharpur	342	8.90
10	Sangola	202	5.26
11	South Solapur	218	5.67
Total		3842	100

Source: Socio-economic review of Solapur district 2011



**Fig. No. 3**

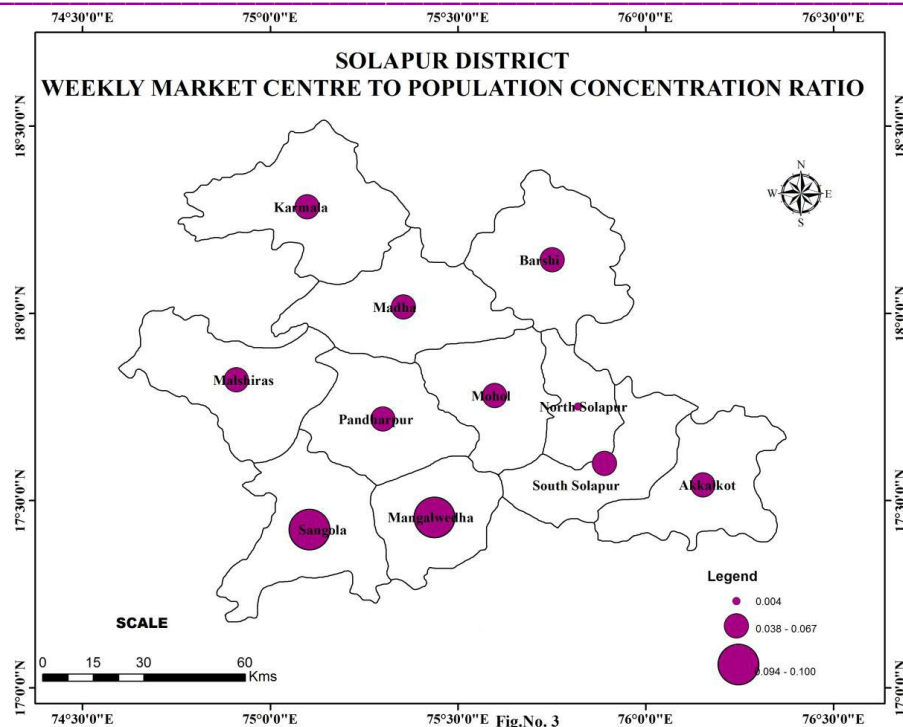
Above Table No.2 and Fig. No.3 shows Population Concentration in Solapur District. In Solapur district, the concentration of population in various tahsils shows a clear division into high, medium and low concentration areas. North Solapur has the highest population of 1548, making it the most urbanised and developed tahsil in the district. The area has significant economic opportunities, infrastructure and services that attract a large population. Pandharpur has a higher population of 342, perhaps due to its religious significance, which may attract people for cultural and economic reasons, further contributing to its concentration. In contrast, tahsils like Akkalkot (224), Barshi (245), Madha (212), Mohol (210), Sangola (202) and South Solapur (218) fall in the medium category. These areas exhibit a balanced population concentration, which shows a mix of urban and rural characteristics. They probably support a combination of agricultural and small-scale industrial activities, which provide sufficient economic opportunities to maintain a stable population level. Although not as densely populated as North Solapur or Pandharpur, this tahsil still has adequate infrastructure and services to support population growth. On the other hand, Karmala (159) has the lowest population, meaning it is a sparsely populated area. This is primarily indicative of a rural environment where economic opportunities are few and there is a high reliance on agriculture and other local industries. The low population concentration is indicative of a lack of urbanization and poor infrastructure development compared to other tahsils. Overall, the population concentration of Solapur district clearly shows: urban centres like North Solapur and Pandharpur have high population densities due to better availability of economic opportunities and services, while rural tahsils like Karmala have low population densities due to limited development and infrastructure.

#### ANALYSIS OF WEEKLY MARKET CENTERS IN CONCENTRATION OF HUMAN POPULATION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT

Weekly markets are mainly held in towns and villages which act as commercial place for the surrounding areas. These markets attract people from nearby rural areas to buy goods, sell agricultural produce and get essential services. The presence of weekly markets creates economic activities that attract the local population, which in turn affects the population concentration around these centres. In Solapur district, the concentration of human population around weekly market centres is playing a significant role in shaping the demographic landscape. These markets are acting as major economic hubs for both rural and urban populations.

**TABLE NO.3**  
**SOLAPUR DISTRICT: WEEKLY MARKET CENTRE TO POPULATION CONCENTRATION RATIO**

Sr. No.	Name of tahsil	Population Concentration	No. of Weekly Market Centers	Market Centre to Population Concentration Ratio
1	Akkalkot	224	15	0.067
2	Barshi	245	16	0.065
3	Karmala	159	10	0.063
4	Madha	212	13	0.061
5	Malshiras	302	14	0.046
6	Mangalwedha	180	18	0.100
7	Mohol	210	9	0.043
8	North Solapur	1548	6	0.004
9	Pandharpur	342	13	0.038
10	Sangola	202	19	0.094
11	South Solapur	218	9	0.041



### High Ratios:

Mangalwedha tahsil (0.100) and Sangola tahsil (0.094) have the highest ratios. This means that these areas have a higher number of market centers relative to their population, suggesting these areas likely offer better access to weekly markets. These tahsils are likely to have higher population concentration because the availability of markets attracts people for trade and other economic activities and it highlights the role of market centers in attracting and sustaining populations in specific areas.

### Moderate Ratios:

Tahsils such as Akkalkot tahsil (0.067), Barshi tahsil (0.065), Karmala tahsil (0.063), Madha tahsil (0.061), and Malshiras tahsil (0.046) fall into the moderate category. These regions provide decent access to markets relative to their population, so they likely experience steady population growth, as markets serve as important place for local commerce and economic interaction.

### Low Ratios:

Tahsils such as Mohol (0.043), South Solapur (0.041), Pandharpur (0.038), and North Solapur (0.004) have lower ratios. The low market-to-population ratios suggest that these areas have fewer market centers per person, indicating that access to markets may be limited. This could result in lower population concentration or slower population growth in these areas, as people may move to areas with better market accessibility.

### CONCLUSION

Weekly market centres play a significant role in the socio-economic growth and population concentration of Solapur district. Their strategic location directly impacts settlement patterns, as these regions have a higher number of market centres and are witnessing increasing population concentration. This distribution plays a significant role in shaping the demographic and economic landscape of the region. The findings of the study highlight significant disparities across the tahsils of the district. Mangalwedha and Sangola have emerged as prominent centres, with a large number of market centres driving economic activity and attracting population. These tahsils exhibit a thriving market culture, encouraging business, trade and community interaction. On the other hand, North

Solapur and South Solapur exhibit a relative lack of market centres, indicating areas that could benefit from targeted infrastructure and economic development initiatives. The low concentration of market centers in this area indicates the need for strategic investments to improve market access, boost local economies, and better serve the population. Ultimately, weekly market centers are not just commercial entities; they are central to the development and well-being of Solapur district. Increasing the number and distribution of these centers can lead to more balanced socio-economic development across all tahsils, which can help to address population growth and create economic opportunities in underserved regions.

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