



DEVELOPMENT OF MAHAD CITY- A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Development is a human process and the desire to improve upon the current circumstances, is the motivation behind any process of development. There are many parameters of measuring development, as well as many factors affects on development of any one region or area. Generally favourable physical conditions, development of industrialization, increase in literary ratio, increase and development in basic infrastructural and social facilities, development in agriculture, tourism, development of natural resources, these major factors determines the development of any region or city or country. The present paper is based on secondary data, which is collected from Nagar-Parishad and socio-economic abstract of Raigad district. The present paper also examines the different parameters which are responsible for the development of Mahad city. It is found that Mahad city is developed during 1991-2001 due to establishment of M.I.D.C. After the industrial development the changes occurred in different aspects of Mahad city i.e. increase in population, schools, colleges, medical facilities, commercial centers, roads, landuse changes etc.

Key Words: *Development, development parameters, industrial development.*



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Introduction: Development process is everlasting process which started since the human being came into existence. The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. According to Andrew clear, “development is the act of causing to grow to expand and to realize what had formally been potential”. The emergence of towns, cities and metropolitan cities are the creation of this long process of development. This paper reveals the development of Mahad city during 1991-2001. In this study this decadal time has been selected because before this decade there was no more development in Mahad because typical hilly terrain, difficulties in communication

and absence of infrastructural facilities. After the establishment of M.I.D.C. there are increase in population, migration from neighbouring rural and urban areas from state as well as other states and increase in job opportunities in Mahad city. It means establishment of M.I.D.C. is one of the major factor in the development of Mahad city.

Study Area

Mahad is one of the most important cities of Western Maharashtra, India. Mahad is situated 180 km from Mumbai and 120 km from Pune. Mahad is one of the town in Raigad district of Maharashtra state. It is one of the historical and commercial centre from ancient time (period of Shivaji Maharaja). Commerce and trade are major activities in this area.

Geographically, Mahad is located at latitude $18^{\circ}5'$ N and longitude $73^{\circ}25'$ E. It is located on Mumbai-Goa national highway no. 66 (Former N.H.-17). The city is bounded by two rivers namely Savitri and Gandhari to the south, east and west side respectively. (Map no.) while remaining north side is bounded by hill ranges of Sahyadri. The Mahad city is only at 4 metres high above the mean sea level and both the rivers have tidal effects. The city has become the centre of attraction because of its beautiful surroundings and pleasant climate. Mahad has a personality of its own due to its mythological, historical, social and cultural importance. The city, vibrant and active on the industrial, political, social and cultural fronts, has influenced the lives of some great personalities. Being one of the most developed area in Konkan, Mahad is a perfect combination of modern industrial advancements and ancient and valuable Indian culture.

Objective

The main objective of this paper is to study the factors affecting the development of Mahad city during 1991-2001.

Database and Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data which is collected from Mahad Nagar Parishad and socio- economic abstract of Raigad district. The data has been analysed for decadal changes in development of Mahad city. The secondary data has been collected and computed by recent research techniques and results have been brought through tables.

Analysis and Results

Mahad city is developed due to some major factors. These are mainly suitable physical conditions, location (near N.H.-66), and increase in infrastructural and social facilities, tourism, and establishment of M.I.D.C. industrial estate near 6 kms away from Mahad city etc. Some decadal changes, which proves the development of Mahad city, these are discussed in this paper. These are changes in population of Mahad, sex-ratio, educational facilities, literacy rate, occupational pattern, land use, shops, wards and cost of land etc.

1) Changes in Population (during 1991-2001): According to 1991 census the population of Mahad city was 18662 and in 2001 it was 24276 persons. The population is increased in 2001 due to establishment of M.I.D.C., increase in infrastructural and basic facilities, increase in medical facilities, improvement in dietary pattern, increase in literacy rate, increase in migration from neighbouring villages, natural growth and availability of adequate water supply.

2) Changes in Wards: Changes in wards also determines the development of any region because generally wards increases due to increase in population. In 1991, Mahad city has 17 wards while in 2001 it has 25 wards.

3) Changes in literacy rate: It is also one of the important parameter of the development. In 1991 only 73.99% population of Mahad city was literate and in 2001, it was 77.91%. It means that this rate increased in 2001 due to increase in educational institutions and change peoples approach.

4) Changes in Occupation Structure: In Mahad city, 30.08% population was engaged in secondary sector, while 63.89% population was engaged in tertiary sector in 1991. In 2001, 34.79% population was engaged in tertiary sector. Population in secondary and tertiary sector was increased in 2001 due to establishment of M.I.D.C. and increase in other services.

5) Changes in shops: In 2001, the no.of shops were increased which is shown in table no.1. Vehicle related shops, medical shops, cosmetics, food industries, building construction material, lodging were more increased because increase in population, tourism and location near the highway.

Table No. 1

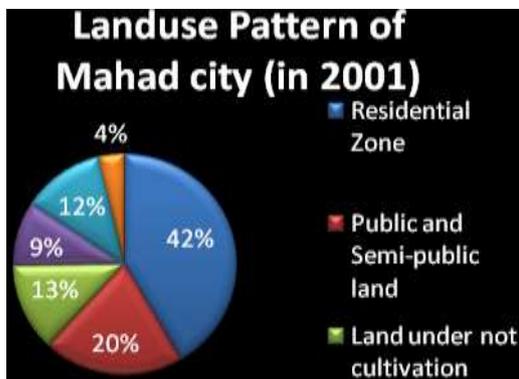
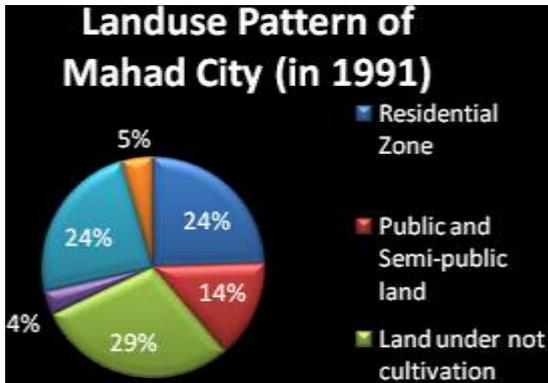
Sr. No.	Shop Category	1991	2001	Growth in %
1	Food industry	112	168	20

2	Medical shops	26	45	26.76
3	Vehicle related shops	22	37	25.42
4	Fuel shops	19	26	15.56
5	Communication Centers	26	38	18.75
6	Cloth related shops	71	104	18.85
7	Cosmetic shops	25	42	25.37
8	Other shops	116	164	17.14

4) Changes in Land use Pattern: The land under residential zone was 99.746 Hect. in 1991, it was increased i.e. 168.906 hect. in 2001. The public and semipublic land was 58.114 hect. in 1991 and 83.374 hect. in 2001. Land under not cultivation was 119.06 hect in 1991 and 51.94 hect. in 2001. Land under agriculture was 97.34 hect in 1991 and 49.06 hect in 2001. The hilly land area was 18.45 hect. in 1991 and 15.20 hect. in 2001. It means residential zone increased while other land was decreased in 2001. In short agricultural land decreased and residential and commercial land area increased in 2001 due to industrial development. (fig. 2 & 3).

Fig No. 2

Fig. No.3



Summary and Conclusions: Mahad city is developed during 1991-2001 after the establishment of M.I.D.C. After industrial development there is an increase in population, migration from neighbouring rural areas, and increase in job opportunities in Mahad city. Location of Mahad city is also important in development of Mahad city. Mahad is a central place for some tourist places. Mahad is located on Mumbai- Goa national highway and therefore many travelers stay in Mahad for lunch or dinner or to take a rest.

Apart from these factors this city is developed due to implementation of development plan of 1992. During 1991-2001, land use pattern changed due to increase in population, commercial activities, housing and educational purpose.

Although there is development in Mahad city but it is not more. For example there are only primary and secondary education institutes increased in 2001 but less development in higher education. Similarly small hospitals increased in number but there is a lack of big and modern equipped medical hospitals. There is also a lack of underground drainage system. It means Mahad city is in the transitional stage of development.

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