

Urban Functions, Processes and Social Morphology of Drought – Prone Tahsils of Jalgaon District Maharashtra State

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Abstract

Towns are the places of manifold functions and these functions are mostly related to the economic and social development of urban areas. Towns in Jalgaon district are prominent historic-religious place of Central India which is located on lush green covered Plateau, Ajanta ranges, and Hatti hill ranges. The topographical configuration of tahsils towns in Jalgaon district is uneven and the towns are situated around the origin point of the sacred river Girna. The temples, ponds, ashrams, and commercial shops are the foremost features of tahsil towns. The functions of town in tahsils are widely influenced by the rain fed agriculture. The town has its importance as service centre in the peripheral villages and is connected with other, various important places. The process of urbanization and urban sprawl of the region is largely controlled by the religion-political factors. The segregated occupancy pattern of different ethnic groups in the town clearly shows the rural attribute of the town and its inclination towards the hierarchy based community system and religious aspect. The present study is an attempt to analyse and describe the urban functions, processes and social morphology of the settlement in spatio-cultural context.

Keywords: Urban functions, processes and social morphology.

INTRODUCTION

The urban areas are recognized as one of the complex and highly dynamic landscape on the earth's surface. The civilization of present era is characterized by rapid growth of urban areas and increase in the proportion of urban population in developed as well as developing nations. "The study of cities should invariably be associated with environment comprising the very life of the people living there and also the involved activities performed by them" (Verma, 2008:2). "The use of urban land and its expansion is largely determined by population growth, socio-economic and technological and historical elements" (Sharma and Mishra, 2011: 1). The study of urban functions, urbanization and urban land use in Geography is associated with the application of quantitative analysis of geographical data. The current spatial techniques such as computer added cartography and GIS became important tools to assist the spatial and quantitative analysis. The study extends to spatial dimension of society and culture like population characteristics, economic activities and organization of social space. Years is relatively far better (931) than the overall sex ratio. The total literacy of the town is 80% and the work participation rate is 36.6%. Among the total workers (3,081), male workers are more than two times of female workers, i.e., 2,166 male and 915 female. About 84% of total workers are other workers, after big gap, it is followed by agricultural labourers 9.28% and workers in household industry (4.77%) while the lowest proportion comes under cultivation, i.e., 2.20% because the town has grown as service centre and the largest source of livelihood is tertiary sector.

STUDY AREA

The region selected for the study is drought – prone 9 tahsils located in south of the Tapi river in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra State, India. Jalgaon district is located in north of the Maharashtra state. Out of the 15 tahsils in Jalgaon district 9 tahsils are drought – prone tahsils includes like Amalner, Dharangaon, Erandol, Parola, Chalisgaon, Bhadgaon, and Jamner & Muktainagar. Which are selected for the present study. The location map indicates the study area in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra in India. The image reveal the location of the study area. The study area is indicated in yellow colour. It lies between 20⁰11' to 21⁰30' North latitudes & 74⁰46' to 76⁰24' East longitudes (Fig.1).



OBJECTIVES

- To study the various urban functions of the town.
- To understand undergoing urban processes in shaping of urban functions, and
- To describe social morphology of the town.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary sources of data while the primary work played a vital role in the study of field check of urban functions and its spatial arrangement and helped simultaneously to observe the processes of urbanization and urban sprawl. The discussion with the local people enabled to understand the social and cultural aspects of the settlement. The study of locational importance of urban functions and its spatial connections are clearly marked through the prepared map. The interpretation of geographical data, map and phenomena are based on intensive field study. The relevant published and unpublished material is consulted and quoted. The preparation of applicable map is based on taluk wise map supplied by Census of India and land use map which is taken from development plan, 2015. The taluk wise population data is taken from district census handbook and primary census abstracts of different years.

EVOLUTION OF THE TOWN

The Girna, Tittur, Waghur, Anjani, Bori, Bahula, and plateau platform situation provides base for the evolution of the settlement, drought prone nine taluks towns while its growth is affected by the agriculture and its scope is enhanced by the tourism because of scenic beauty of nature and connectivity with other places. "Town's place is the product of culture of people of the region" (Verma, 2008: 55). That is why the origin of towns is related to multifarious reasons such as social, economic, cultural and political. The urban characteristics of the small settlement are primarily the result of non-primary occupation of population. The place drought prone taluk towns like Amalner, Parola, Pachora, Chalisgaon, Jamner, Bhadgaon, Dharangaon, and Muktainagar. The river Girna, Waghur are mentioned in various old texts such as Puranas, Ramayana, and Mahabharata.

The urban characteristics of the settlement came into being after starting of the agriculture in early 1960s and continued up to 2000 in drought prone taluks towns which led to grow urban services like market, bank, postal service and transportation. The economy of the town has suddenly declined with the closing of both of the agriculture.

Tahsil	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Amalner	121000	130000	155560	165000	175000	180000	190000	200000	214300	241332	262522	290328
%	0.0	7.4	19.7	6.1	6.1	2.9	5.6	5.3	7.2	12.6	8.8	10.6
Dharangaon	62500	68200	73600	82500	91000	100000	110000	117000	123113	146654	160692	177712
%	0.0	9.1	7.9	12.1	10.3	9.9	10.0	6.4	5.2	19.1	9.6	10.6
Parola	74200	86000	90100	94500	98000	104000	111000	115896	125102	154399	169919	187916
%	0.0	15.9	4.8	4.9	3.7	6.1	6.7	4.4	7.9	23.4	10.1	10.6
Erandol	71200	76100	80800	86400	91000	96800	101000	107000	116900	133488	148114	163802
%	0.0	6.9	6.2	6.9	5.3	6.4	4.3	5.9	9.3	14.2	11.0	10.6
Chalisgaon	133330	149000	162000	185000	190000	209000	226000	236000	251044	329268	356808	394600
%	0.0	11.8	8.7	14.2	2.7	10.0	8.1	4.4	6.4	31.2	8.4	10.6
Bhadgaon	32721	42700	48900	52500	57200	68000	80000	90000	112340	127723	142168	157226
%	0.0	30.5	14.5	7.4	9.0	18.9	17.6	12.5	24.8	13.7	11.3	10.6
Pachora	108963	123690	133560	137800	141200	151900	157200	162500	182855	227437	251907	278588
%	0.0	13.5	8.0	3.2	2.5	7.6	3.5	3.4	12.5	24.4	10.8	10.6
Jamner	98700	118900	129700	149800	157200	171360	181500	191000	200976	244795	288804	319393
%	0.0	20.5	9.1	15.5	4.9	9.0	5.9	5.2	5.2	21.8	18.0	10.6
Muktainagar	39800	49200	52300	59400	61700	66800	72500	81238	93257	115323	137753	152267
%	0.0	23.6	6.3	13.6	3.9	8.3	8.5	12.1	14.8	23.7	19.4	10.5
Region	742414	843790	926520	1012900	1062300	1E+06	1229200	1300634	1419887	1720419	1918687	2121832
%	0.0	13.7	9.8	9.3	4.9	8.1	7.1	5.8	9.2	21.2	11.5	10.6

Source: Census Handbook of Jalgaon District, 1901-2011

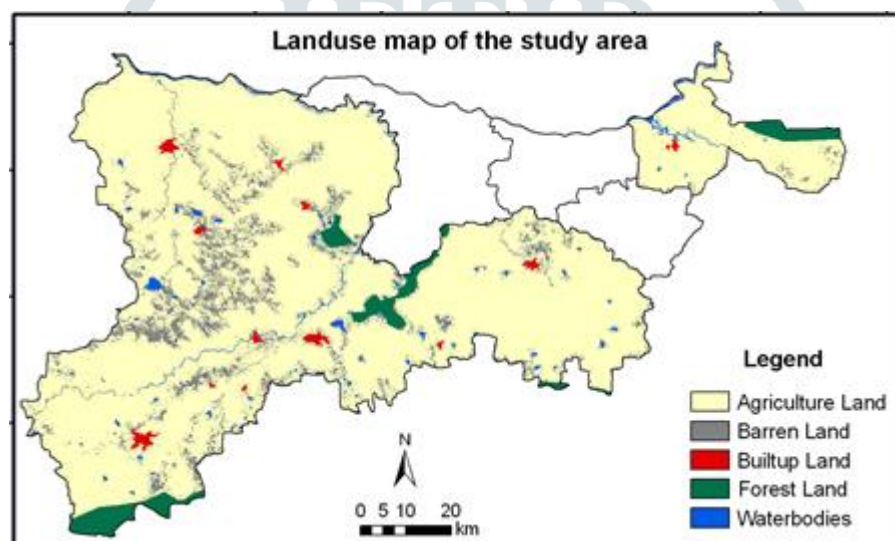


Fig. 2

URBAN FUNCTIONS

Urban areas have multi-fold functions that support the urban life and its efficiency. Urban functions include dwelling units, physical and social facilities and services with its spatial arrangements. The urban functions are grouped in two ways namely basic and non-basic. The basic functions are those functions which generate income to the town through providing the services to the surrounding settlements and the non-basic functions are those functions that fulfil needs of its own population. Geographically, the urban functions of a town are the synonym of uses of urban land into different functions. The study focuses on urban functions which are analysed and described with given following sub heads:

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The land, on which the dwellings are built, is marked as residential area. It is an important and largest component of urban space. Towns of drought prone tahsils is a small size town because of its population and urban functions and is growing out of rural settlement. The area under residential use is 21.9 ha that is very less (0.90% to the total area of study region towns) while it is 4.3% to the developed land. The whole residential area has a core and many groups of dwellings developed into pockets.

The spatial grouping of residential units of the town is divided into houses of rich landlord and businessmen, government employees, less spacious and unhygienic houses of poor peoples.

OFFICIAL BUILDING

Official set-up is generally developed in a specific area and connected with means of transportation. The administrative area such as capital, district headquarters, tehsil or local body governance and administrative function generally develops in moderately settled part or outskirts of the towns/cities. "The location of administrative offices is guided predominantly by accessibility, selection and availability of vast space" (Sharma and Mishra, 2011:13) Three administrative set-ups are established in namely police station, forest office.

RETAIL BUSINESS

'Retail commercial activities are the significant functions in a city to fulfil the basic requirements of the local people and dependents of surrounding region' (Yadava and Prasad, 2014: 34). The central business district of town is under developed and shops are mainly found in ribbon pattern along the road to the circumference of the old park. The shops generally belong to kirana, general provision, cosmetics, cloths and readymade garments, photo studio, stationary and electronics along with a few restaurants. The market is centrally located in the built-up area. The single storeyed shops show lack of rush when it serves to the local people and the commuters. The market got benefitted by the good location along main road and as all the commuters, tourists and pilgrimage pass from the market. The tea stalls and breakfast outlets as well as some general provision shops are also developed in this area. The numbers of shops are increased rapidly along the road in the vicinity of hospital.

LEISURE-RESTAURANT

The spatio-cultural characteristics of region towns are a combination of natural scenic beauty and the sacred places. Many people of different places especially urban areas come to recreation in all-weather seasons. Few people want to enjoy with cloudy weather and summer season to enjoy the natural beauty of flowering season and pleasant weather. The dharathirth waterfall and sunrise point are the attracting points of every tourist. Many running streams make small rapids and falls which are also attracting points. Many private and government guest houses are the places of accommodation and foods. Among them holyday homes, PWD guest house, guest house, forest rest house and lodges are very famous.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The small place Amalner became a hub of education that attracts students from peripheral area with the establishment of four higher secondary schools, primary schools and having hostel facilities. Many tribal people come to sell herbs in the market. The allopathic health services are very poor due to lack of hospitals in Amalner. Only one government primary health centre is there while hospital is almost dysfunctional.

HOTEL AND ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation facility in study region towns are mostly provided by the Ashrams and dharamsalas that are related to many sects and religions which are located everywhere in the region towns. Many of them are maintained like hotels. The hotels are limited in number and most of them are associated with government departments while privately owned guest houses are functioning parallel to serve tourists. The land use under public and semi-public domain is 45.4 ha which occupies more than 40% of the developed area. It shows that the town is an important service centre in the surroundings. The major part of this land use falls under the residence, road, shops and temples. Most of the 77% households are getting tap water while 23% access through wells and rest got to river and springs. The 21% households of the town do not have lavatory facility. Only 20% households are having open and closet drainage facilities. The above proportion shows that the basic urban services are very poor in the town.

INDUSTRIAL

The total land use under the industrial function is 5.9 ha which 3.0 % of the developed land is. The Training-cum-Production Centre (TCPC) is located in outside of the town's area which is established by the Government of Maharashtra for the promotion of industrial activities and generation of employment. In the vicinity of Bus stand. Industrial colony Employees have left the place while some people are still inhabiting the same locality

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Urban transportation is the single most important component instrumental in shaping urban development and urban living (Sen and Sanyal, 2013:421). The circulatory system in any settlement reflects its pattern of development in entire landscape. High density of roads shows dense population and further development of the settlement. Low density of road network of Jamner shows that the town is less populated. Transportation network of the town covers an area of 17.9 ha which is 8.00 % of the developed area. There are two types of roads namely state highway and local municipal roads. The BSNL exchange is installed in region towns to extend the communication services and internet facility.

GENERAL COMMERCIAL

The commercial land use of the town is 5.2ha which is 5.31% to the developed land. The commercial activities are the prominent function in the town as a source of livelihood for urban dwellers. The commercial function is retail in nature. The retail business lies along the streets and roads in the vicinity of core part of the towns. The vicinity of Jain temple is also attracting people for purchasing some consumer items. The restaurants and eateries are different commercial activities in the town.

GENERALIZED LAND USE PATTERN OF THE TOWN

"Land use in a city has a unique structure because of its interactions between spatial configurations and functions. Urban land uses differ with one another not only in their areal coverage but also in their different morphological structures. Its study becomes essential as a part of analysis of different functions" (Sharma and Mishra, 2011, p.11). Human occupancy of the land changes dynamically in space and time. This requires a scientific study of the land use related to their types, incentives and concentrations (Tiwari, Singh and Sharma, 2010, p.17). The total planning area of is 6994.5 ha (Nagar Panchayat covers an area of 68% of the planning area out of that 34% is purely urban). The 300.29 ha is developed while rest area (6693.08 ha) is undeveloped and comes under the open and forest, water bodies and cultivation. The land use data clearly show the unequal development of land in the towns. The figure 2 shows the urban land use pattern out of the total developed land. The land under public and semi-public function is larger proportion which is more than half of the developed land followed by residential (21.9%), transportation (17.9%), recreational (3.7%), commercial (5.2%) and industrial (5.9%). Entire urban space of study region towns are characterized by temples, ashrams, dharamsalas, business outlets, residential units and other public services. The forest covers an area of 769 ha which is 10.5 % of the developed area and 95.7 of the total area. The forest land is major proportion within the limit of Nagar Panchayat and its planning area. These forests are under deterioration due to illegal deforestation. The area under water bodies is 10.08 ha. Water bodies are other important feature of study region towns. The area is a source of water that caused the origin of

sacred river Girna and the river Bori. Various kunds exists in the area. The agricultural land is a very little in terms of total area, i.e., 5476 ha which lies in marginal areas of rural localities.

URBAN PROCESSES

The urban processes are those which caused structural change in urban land use and functions. The term 'process' generally refers to the sequence of change in space and time and the logical sequence of change lead to a recognisable result on the actual ground that is the consequence of both spatial and temporal processes. "An understanding of urban development processes is crucial in urban development planning and sustainable growth and man-agreements" (Cheng, 2004: 167). Two chief urban processes namely urbanization and sprawl are discussed in the study.

URBANIZATION

Urbanisation is a term that refers to the clustering of population in increasingly large, dense and diverse, cities over time (Jonas et al. 2015: 11). The population of the region towns has rapidly grown 11 times in five decades from 1901 to 2011 (table 2). The trend of urbanization in the study region towns shows increase in the size of urban population with high fluctuation. The urbanization of region is mainly related with mining activities, education centre and people also want to live in study region towns to get spiritual and climatic benefits. The patches of region are going to fill with the growth of population and urban functions. In this context, urbanization played a vital role in the changing land use pattern of the town. "The increase in the population has multiple effects on the land uses under residences as well as other uses" (Kaushik and Kaur, 2009: 35).

URBAN SPRAWL

Sprawl is generally defined as the increased development of land in suburban and rural areas outside of their respective urban centres (Bala, 2013: 164). The typical urban sprawl is originated in the study region towns that is associated with modern development on the one hand and on the other the construction of trusts with basic facilities and amenities in scattered mode. Both the things are affecting the development of the town in different ways and represent current and traditional culture. The sprawl of current constructions is generally taking place along the main road that joins to new bus stand. The hilly location and government policies, especially forest laws are responsible for slow growth of the town as declared holy place.

CENTRALIZATION AND DECENTRALIZATION

The maximum economic activities are encircled with the nuclei in the vicinity of core temple areas. The residential units and business activities in the area are woven with each other due to priesthood of Brahmin community and close association with business community for mutual benefits. The magnet of the core is holy temple of shivalaya that attracts people to reside here. The newly development of urban activities and residential units are taking place in outskirts along the roads radiating in different directions due to lack of space and the legally banned the new construction in the central area.

SOCIAL MORPHOLOGY

The term social morphology is used by the sociologist as the study of form and structure of society while the social geographers studied social morphology as spatial and environmental dimension of societies. It includes environmental basis of social organization and size, density and distribution of population. "The morphology or forms of the towns in India reflect faithfully ethnic and social distinctions. The social areas of third world cities are basically characterized by the degree of modernization, and consequently, there is visible in the urban landscape patches of both 'traditional' and 'modern' areas" (Verma, 2008: 132). The present region towns are settlement of settlements as group of many settlements of both rural and urban nature which are segregated by the hierarchical caste system and tribal localities.

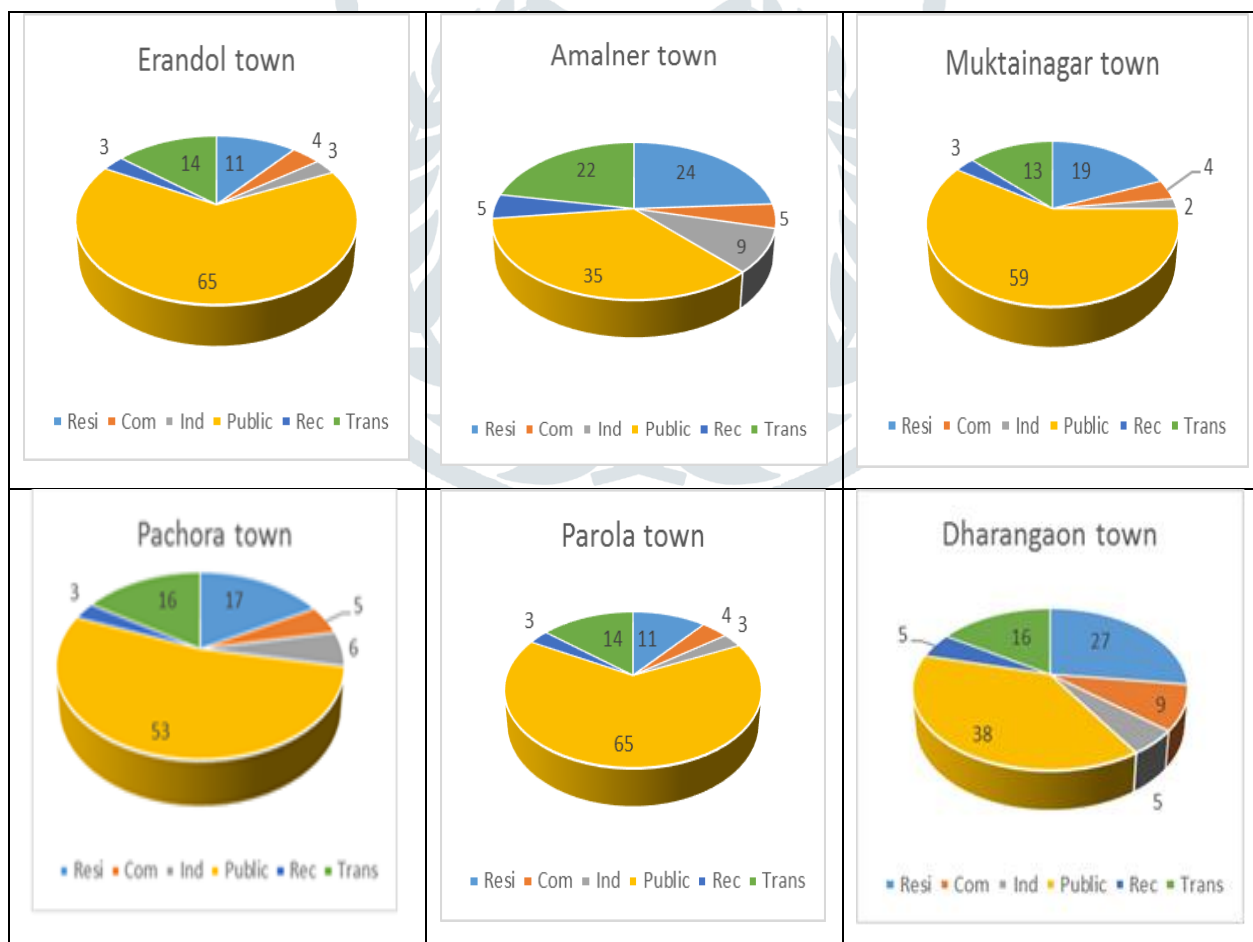
The setribal localities have evolved as hamlets around the main settlement. The core is highly compact and the other pockets are semi-compact and scattered. The core residential area is characterized by pucca double storeyed buildings and metalled roads. The buildings are constructed spacious with 4-5 rooms and having courtyards for sunshine and other socio-cultural activities. Availability of modern facilities and amenities in the houses reflects prosperity itself. The conditions of the dwellings and streets are worst and they are identified as slum. The areas are far from reach of urban facilities. It is according to the principle of social geography in hierarchical caste-based system of India. The less advantageous places are generally occupied by weaker section of society. In contrast, rich people occupied economically beneficial central place of the town.

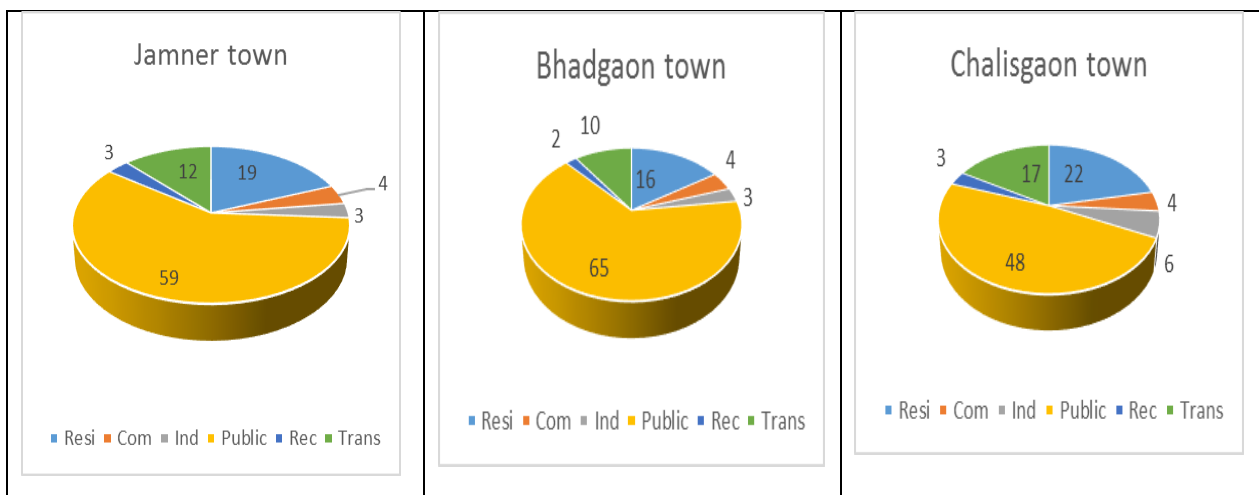
Table: 2 Tahsil town wise Decadal growth rate of Population in study region 1901-2011

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Source: Census Handbook of Jalgaon District, 1901-2011

Fig. 3 Generalized Land - use pattern of tahsil towns of the study region 2011





CONCLUDING REMARKS

The area of study region towns Nagar Panchayat are larger than actual town and spread over vast terrain of forested and cultivated land. There are nine town in the study region like Amalner, Pachora, Parola, Bhadgaon, Jamner, Muktainagar, Dharangaon and Chalisgaon. The study region is a combination of many settlements in which core is main settlement at the same time as rest villages are having separate identity and developed in pockets at considerable distance. Some of them are having forested and cultivated land that are associated with tribal habitats. The evolution and development of the towns are affected by its topography, climate, the Waghur valley, pilgrimage and connectivity with other places. Thus, the concentration of buildings and development of road network are commonly seen in the constructed area and the business activities predominate in this area while other parts have small rural localities with the predominance of primary economic activities as rearing of milch cattle and cultivation.

The water bodies are significant phenomena of the town that cause the cultural importance of the place. The growth of the town is observed along the main roads which lies towards northwest and southeast. The social space and functional integration of the town still have attributes like villages of India.

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