

A Geographical Study of Marital Status in Marathwada

Dr. Nagargoje Ashok Umrao

Associate Professor
Dept. of Geography,
M.U. College, Udgir.

1.1 Introduction :

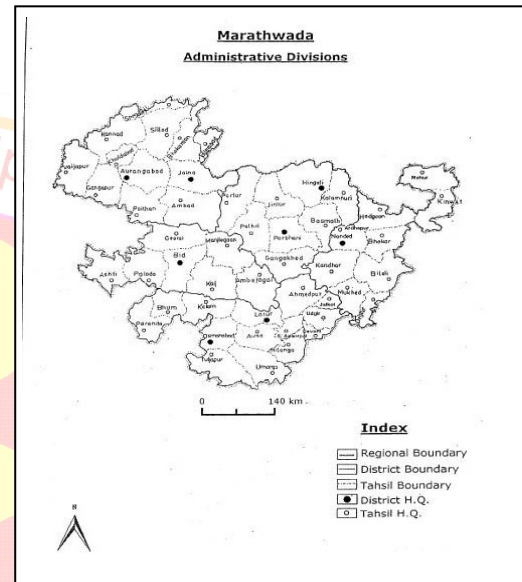
The most important problem before the country today is the problem of population explosion. The rapid increase in population is due to high birth rate and rapidly declining death rate. Variations in birth rate are influenced by certain socio- economic factors. The marital status is one such factor which influences directly the birth rate in a region. Level of socio-economic development influences the marital status and birth rate (Sawant & Khan, 1982).

The age at marriage is an important cultural aspect, which represents the combined effect of cross-culture, educational level coupled with social awareness in any society (Singh, 1989). Age at marriage differs according to time, caste groups and education. The age at marriage has increased as compared to earlier periods. Several Studies such as those of Dandekar and Dandekar (1953), Sovani and Dandekar (1955), Driver (1963) and Aggrawal (1955) have been carried out to assess the trend in age at marriage of males and females. Aggrawal (1966) found that age at marriage increases with the increases in the level of education.

To understand the nature of variations in marital status, it is therefore, necessary to analyse the data regarding the proportion of unmarried, married, widowed and divorced.

1.2 Study area :

Marathwada, the study region occurs in the upper Godavari basin, which extends from 17°35' North latitude to 20° 41' North latitude and from 74°40' East longitude to 78° 16' East longitude. The study area is bordered on the north by Jalgaon, Buldhana, Washim and Yavatmal districts; to the east by Kamareddi, Nizamabad and Adilabad districts of Andhra Pradesh; to the south by Gulbarga and Bidar districts of Karanataka and to the west by Nasik, Ahmednagar and Solapur districts. Its shape is roughly triangular. East-west maximum extent is about 394 kms. and north-south extent is about 330 kms. Aurangabad is its divisional headquarter and the region is administratively known as, Aurangabad division of Maharashtra.



It has a total area of 64,663 sq. kms. which is 21.01 percent of the state and its population is 15589223 which is 16.11 percent of the state in the year 2001. Administratively the area is divided into eight districts that are further sub-divided into 75 tahsils in all (Fig. 1).

1.3 Objectives :

- 1) To explain the marital status in Marathwada
- 2) To study the spatial pattern of marital status in this region.
- 3) To highlight district-wise marital status in the study region.

1.4 Database and Methodology

This study is entirely based on secondary data. The secondary data has been gathered from various sources and include both published and unpublished maps, census data and other different government publications. Socio-economic abstract and district gazetteers have been used. website: <http://www.censusindianet> has been also used as sources of data. The spatio-temporal distribution of rural literacy for study region has shown by choroplath map.

1.5 Spatial Variations in Marital status

The spatial variation in marital status of Marathwada for the year 1991 is given table no.1. The proportion of single persons to total population

was observed higher in industrially and agriculturally developed districts of the region for example Latur, Aurangabad and Nanded districts. On the other hand, the proportion of single persons to total population was observed lower in industrially backward districts, particularly in Parbhani, Jalana, Beed and Osmanabad districts. In industrially developed districts urbanization and literacy both are observed higher. In these districts probably due to late marriages the proportion of single persons was found higher in the study region. On the other hand, the proportion of married population to total population was found higher than the average for the region in Jalana, Parbhani, Beed and Osmanabad districts which are industrially backward part of the region. The districts which are highly urbanized viz. Aurangabad, Nanded and Latur recorded lower proportion of married to total population. This was probably due to late marriages as a result of higher proportion of literates among males and females.

Table No. 1

Marital Status for Marathwada (1991)

Districts	Unmarried/Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced
Nanded	50.74	44.61	4.39	0.26
Beed	49.03	46.37	4.31	0.29
Osmanabad	49.34	46.04	4.36	0.26
Aurangabad	50.84	45.02	3.91	0.23
Jalna	48.78	46.68	4.28	0.26
Parbhani	48.71	46.48	4.51	0.30
Marathwada	49.86	45.66	4.22	0.25

Source : Based on Census of India, 1991.

The proportion of widowed to total population was 4.22 percent for the study region, which was lower than for the state of Maharashtra and higher than for the India. The disparity in level of economic development is reflected in proportion of widowed persons. In industrially and agriculturally developed regions like Aurangabad

and Latur the proportion of widowed was low. This was due to availability of better medical facilities and consequent lowering of death rate.

Another interesting point to note is that the ratio is disturbed due to Migration. The proportion is observed very low for Latur and Aurangabad districts (Table 1).

1.6 Marital Status of Males:

The proportion of single males to total males in Marathwada (56.88 percent) was higher than that for the state of Maharashtra (56.52 percent) and for India (54.72 percent) in 1991. This was due to higher proportion of literates among males and consequent late marriages. The proportion of single males to total population was found relatively higher in western part of study region that is in Osmanabad, Aurangabad and in Beed district. On the other hand, the same was observed lower in the eastern and northern part of the study region.

Table No. 2

Marital Status of Males and Females for Marathwada (1991)

	Male		Female	
	Single	Married	Single	Married
Latur	56.48	48.75	43.52	51.25
Nanded	56.63	49.02	43.37	50.98
Beed	57.03	48.77	42.97	51.23
Osmanabad	57.61	48.49	42.38	51.51
Aurangabad	57.55	49.16	42.43	50.84
Jalna	56.18	49.10	43.82	50.90
Parbhani	56.66	48.97	43.34	51.02
Marathwada	56.88	48.90	43.12	51.10
Maharashtra	56.52	41.55	48.80	42.15
India	54.72	43.16	45.39	47.75

Source : Based on Census of India, 1991.

The proportion of married males to total males was 48.90 percent in Marathwada which was higher than for the state of Maharashtra and for India. The proportions of married males were recorded higher in economically developed regions i.e. in Aurangabad and Nanded districts.

Whereas, the proportions of married males were found relatively lower in Osmanabad, Beed, Latur, Parbhani and in Hingoli district.

The death rate for females was found higher in Beed and Osmanabad districts due to poverty and inadequacy of medical facilities. Therefore, high proportions of widowed males are found in Beed and Osmanabad districts. The proportion of divorced males to total males for the study region in 1991 was 0.23 percent which was higher than for Maharashtra and India.

The proportion of divorced males was observed higher in Nanded, Parbhani and in Hingoli districts. On the other hand, low proportions of divorced males were noticed in Osmanabad, Beed and in Latur districts.

1.7 Marital Status of Females

In 1991, the proportion of unmarried females to total females for Marathwada was 43.12 percent, which was lower than that for the state of Maharashtra and that for the country as a whole. This was Probably due to lower level of urbanization and lower proportion of literate females in Marathwada, The proportions of unmarried females were noticed in Jalana and Latur district; whereas the proportions of unmarried females were found lower in Aurangabad, Osmanabad and in Beed district. The proportion of single females to total females is lower than the proportion of single males to total males in the study region. This was Probably due to early marriages of females than the males.

The proportion of married females to total females was higher than that for married males in Marathwada. This was due to lower age at marriage for females. The proportion of married females for the study region was 51.10 percent, which was higher than that for Maharashtra and India both in 1991 (Table 2).

The proportion of married females was recorded higher in Osmanabad, Latur and Beed districts where female literacy was low on the other hand, the proportions of married females were found lower in Aurangabad, Jalana and Nanded districts.

The proportion of widowed females to total females was many times higher than that for males. This was due to low expectancy of life of males. The proportion of widowed females was noticed higher in industrially advanced districts of Aurangabad as well as in Jalana, Nanded and in Parbhani districts. On the other-hand, for Osmanabad and Beed districts the proportions of widowed females were low, because of high proportion of young females.

The proportion of divorced females to total females was higher in Marathwada than that for

Maharashtra and India. The proportion of divorced females to total females was higher than that for males. In a male dominated society remarriages of divorced Males are more common than these of females. The proportion of divorced females to total females were higher in Osmanabad, Latur and Beed districts where economy is primarily based on agriculture.

1.8 Conclusion :

The marital status is one such factor which influence the birth rate of the region. According to 1991 Census 56.88 percent of females and 43.12 percent of females were single in Marathwada indicating that males marry at a later age than females. Proportion of married males and females were 48.90 percent and 57.10 percent respectively. The discrepancy between the proportions of married males and married females is partly due to variations in age at marriage for males and females. Proportion of widowed is about 1.55 percent among males and 7.70 percent among females in Marathwada. The sex differential is due to dual standards applied to remarriage of males and females. Generally widowed males remarry while most of the widowed females do not remarry. Therefore, the proportion of divorced among females are observed more than among males.

Reference :

- 1) Aggrawal, S.N. (1955) : Age at Marriage in India, Kitab Mahal, Allahabad.
- 2) Aggrawal, S.N. (1966) : Raising the Marriage are for Women : A Means to Lower the Birth Rate Economic and Political Weekly, Pp.797-798.
- 3) Sawant, S.B. & Khan Y.S. (1982) : Variations in Marital Status in Western Maharashtra, The Deccan Geographer, Vol.20, No.2 Pp.181-197.
- 4) Singh, S.C. (1989) : Age at Marriage in Mountain Society : A Case Study from Garhwal Himalaya, The Deccan Geographer, Vol.27 No.1, Pp.493-505.
- 4) Ugade, V.R. (2005) : Analysis of Population Trends in Marathwada, Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis SRTMU, Nanded.