

HOW DOES A REGION GROW?—ANALYSIS OF SECULAR TRENDS IN DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction

THE article attempts a macro view of the regional development process of a small tribal community of 87 villages from Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra State (India). The region is a natural compact unit. It is a *homogeneous* entity from the point of view of revenue history, cropping pattern, rainfall, terrain, soil conditions, and culture of the people. The interacting economic variables we examine are cropping pattern, population, prices and wages, per acre profitability of different crops, forest resources, levels of income, consumption pattern and finally, import-export capacity of the region. The long term movements of all these strands are synthesized to indicate a certain perspective for development. In various development models, often a number of variables are listed. In this exercise, an attempt has been made to construct the sequence of development and the chain reactions that are generated in such a historical process of development of a region. The time horizon is over a hundred years, and the analysis is largely based on old historical revenue records and documents such as Settlement Reports¹ and Gazetteers. The author collected the data on relevant aspects during 1963-64.

¹ "Papers relating to the Revision Survey Settlement of 102 Dangi Villages of the Akola Taluka of the Ahmednagar Collectorate". Selections from the records of the Bombay Government No. CCXVI—New Series, 1887-88, submitted by Mr. W. M. Fletcher, Superintendent, Poona and Nasik and Southern Maratha Country Revenue Surveys. This report has been referred to as the Fletcher Report (1888).

The earlier report by Mr. Fraser-Tytler on the First Survey and Settlement of the Akola Dang, 1848, has been reproduced in the Fletcher Report (1888) on page 58 onwards. This report has been referred to as the Tytler Report (1848).

"Second Revision Settlement of the Akola Taluka of the Ahmednagar District", submitted by Mr. N. H. Hey, Assistant Settlement Officer, Western Talukas, Ahmednagar, on May 19, 1916. This report has been referred to as the Hey Report (1916).