

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS AND MARRIAGE-CONNECTIONS IN GOKAK TALUKA *

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GOKAK Taluka, an administrative sub-division in Belgaum District, has an area of about 596 square miles and a population of 174,650 according to the census of 1951. (A map of the taluka is given on p. 306.)

This study refers to all the three towns, all the 21 villages with 2,000 and more population, all the 25 villages with 1,000-1,999 population, and to 22 out of 57 villages with less than 1,000 population. It deals with 1,483 families selected on a five per cent. random sample basis, the number and spatial distribution of migrants and marriage-connections being derived from answers to *questionnaires* issued to the heads of these families spread over the eight zones (Table 2).

The migration-trends and marriage-connections are studied here as prevailing between one zone and another, and between one zone and areas outside the taluka.

The immigrants referred to are the heads of the families included in the sample and the emigrants are the individuals who were members of the family residential unit but had gone out either for education or for employment.

Preliminary to proceeding with the analysis of the migrants in the first place it will be of advantage to bear in mind some characteristics of the eight zones.

* A social-ecological study of the taluka wherein the taluka is hypothetically treated as a region to start with, and the internal spatial characteristics and patterns of some of the socio-economic aspects are analysed on this regional basis with Gokak, the administrative seat, as the centre of the region, forms the subject-matter of an unpublished thesis that was awarded Ph.D. by the Bombay University in 1958.

The taluka is demarcated into eight zones each zone being headed by a central town or village which served the villages near and around it more or less within a radius of five miles, as a marketing, communication and educational centre, and each zone comprising a distinct natural environment. Further variations in the distribution and composition of the population in its demographic and socio-cultural aspects, castes, occupational structure, size and composition of the families, migration and marriage-connections are studied on this zonal and regional basis.

A paper dealing with the size and composition of families on this basis, in four of the eight zones, is published in the *Sociological Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 1, March 1960.