

# Class and Size wise Distribution of Urban Centre and their Determinants in Maharashtra

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## ABSTRACT

Urbanization in Indian is not rapid but massive. In order to plan for balanced and integrated development of the state. Potential cities and towns should be developed to their optimum capacity. There are several studies that have investigated the determinants of urbanization in Maharashtra by considering all the cities and towns together or only large cities, this paper tries to investigate it by considering different class or towns of cities of major separately. Urbanization is conventionally measured by size and growth of city population. India is urbanization rapidly and about 377 million people live in 7935 towns and cities, across the country which constitutes about 31.2 per cent of the total population. The number of towns has significantly increased from 2219 in 1951 to 7935 in 2011. There is high inequality in the distribution of the urban population by size class categories. About 70 per cent of the total urban population lives in 468 towns in Indian.

Maharashtra is urbanizing rapidly and about 45.23 per cent population live in 536 towns and cities. The number of towns has significantly increased from 237 in 1961 to 536 in 2011. About 76.67 per cent of the total urban population lives in class I cities or towns i.e. 44 in Maharashtra. The contribution of Class I cities to the total urban population of Maharashtra was only 6.32 percent in the beginning of the present century (1961), which steadily increased to 8.21 in 2011. The Class I cities are growing at a much faster rate and their contribution to the progress of urbanization is overwhelming.

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## 1. Introduction

Urbanization in Indian is not rapid but massive. In order to plan for balanced and integrated development of the state. Potential cities and towns should be developed to their optimum capacity. There are several studies that have investigated the determinants of urbanization in Maharashtra by considering all the cities and towns together or only large cities, this paper tries to investigate it by considering different class or towns of cities of major separately. Urbanization is conventionally measured by size and growth of city population. India is urbanization rapidly and about 377 million people live in 7935 towns and cities, across the country which constitutes about 31.2 per cent of the total population. The number of towns has significantly increased from 2219 in 1951 to 7935 in 2011. There is high inequality in the distribution of the urban population by size class categories. About 70 per cent of the total urban population lives in 468 towns in Indian.

In recent years, most of the developing countries in the world are experiencing rapid urbanization compared to the developed countries. As per the United Nation's report, by 2050 around 64% of developing world and 86% of the developed world will get urbanized. Rapid urbanization is one of the most important factors that are counted upon to promote urban lead economic growth in Indian in the days to come. Urbanization can be described as a transition from agricultural based economy to urban industry and service lead economy. According to 2011 census, out of total population of 121 crore about 37.7 crore (i.e. 31 %) live in urban areas and 83.3 crore

(i.e. 69%) live in rural areas in India. The total population has increased from 102.9 crore in 2001 to 121 crore in 2011, whereas the population residing in urban areas increased from 28.6 crore in 2001 to 37.7 crore in 2011, which accounts for about 32% increase. It reflects a rapid increase of urbanization.

India's urbanization pattern is disparate and governed solely by type of class / size of urban population in India. It is also different for different states, geographies in India. This calls for a systemic examination of determinants of urbanization in different class size and different states of India. This paper therefore attempts to fill this serious research gap by analyzing the differences in urbanization pattern across the different class/ size cities /towns and different states of India. It is hoped that results of this study will help the authorities to prescribe appropriate urban policies and programmers in India to suit the apparent diversity in terms of class size distribution of urban population in India.

## 2. Objectives

1. To study the levels and trends of urbanization in India.
2. To Comparative study of urban Centre in Maharashtra.
3. To analyze the decadal changes in urban Centre and urban population.
4. To examine the inequality in the distribution of urban population by size class categories.

## 3. Study Area

The State of Maharashtra extends from 15° 45' to 20° 6' North Latitude and 70° 36' to 80° 54' East Longitude with Geographical area 3, 07,713 Sq. Km. It is bounded by Arabian Sea in the west, the State of Gujarat in the Northwest. Madhya Pradesh in the North, Chhattisgarh in the East, Andhra Pradesh in the Southwest, Karnataka in the South and Goa in the Southwest. Maharashtra occupies the western and central part of the country and has a long coastline stretching nearly 720 Km along the Arabian Sea. The state has 35 districts, Tahsils 355, census town are 279.

The present study is based on secondary data collected from census Reports of Government of India. Census handbook (1991, 2001 and 2011), Socio-economic review of Maharashtra statistical abstract. The period from 1991 to 2011 is selected for the observation of pattern of population density changes. The collected data has been processed and analysed by using different quantitative, statistical technique. The tabulated data has been presented by different graphs and maps.

**4. Data base and methodology**



Map. 1

**5. Out Growths (OG)**

An Out Growth (OG) is a viable unit such as a village or a hamlet or an enumeration block made up of such village or hamlet and clearly identifiable in terms of its boundaries and location. Sometime university campus, port, MIDC, military campus or railway colony are developed on the outside of the boundary of towns. This area mostly depends for every

function on the main towns. In this out growth, all infrastructure and amenities are available like towns.

Number of statutory towns, census towns, urban agglomeration and outgrowth of India during 2001 and 2011 are presented below. The highest number of census towns is increased upto 2532 during this decade. The overall growth of all types of towns is positive in the country.

**TABLE -I**  
**NUMBER OF TOWNS IN INDIA**

Sr. No.	Type of Towns	Number of towns in India		Growth
		2001	2011	
1	Statutory Towns	3,799	4,041	242
2	Census Towns	1,362	3,894	2532
3	Urban Agglomerations	384	475	91
4	Out Growths	962	981	19

Source - Census of India, 2011.

## 6. Classification of towns

Urban settlements are classified based on population, size and functions. Urban settlement is classified as urban hamlet, urban village, town, city, metropolis, conurbation, megapolice

based on population size. The Census of India has classified the towns under the following six categories.

**TABLE -II**  
**SIZE CLASS OF TOWNS**

Size Class	Population
Class I	1 lakhs and above
Class II	50,000 to 99,999
Class III	20,000 to 49,999
Class IV	10,000 to 19,999
Class V	5,000 to 9,999
Class VI	less than 5,000

Source - Census of India, 2011.

Every town has its specific functions. As per functions, the town can be classify as, administrative centers, industrial towns, mining towns, transport towns, ports centers, defense centers, market centers, commercial centers, tourist centers, cultural centers and diversified functions.

## 7. Size class wise towns

Table -III gives the pictures of size class wise towns in India since 1901 to 2011. The number of Class I cities were continuously increasing and it shows more concentration of urban population. In 1901, only 57.6 percentage populations was living in this Class I city, it increased upto 77 percent in

2011. The number of Class II & III towns has shows increasing number but they maintain their share of urban population. In 2001, there of Class II & III towns were reduced 6.6 and 8.5 respectively. The share of class IV, V, VI cities in 1901 was 11.7, 11.4 and 3.5 respectively it reduced 4.9, 2.6 and 0.3 in 2011. The number of Class IV, V and VI has been increasing but them continuously losing the percentage share of urban population. After Independence the number of Class I, II, III & IV towns shows expansive growth while the class V & VI towns show the decline trends.

**TABLE -III**  
**CLASS WISE NO OF TOWNS**

Census Years	Class wise no of towns in India						Total Town
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
1901	24	23	130	391	744	479	1791
1911	23	40	135	364	707	485	1754
1921	29	45	145	370	734	571	1894
1931	35	56	183	434	800	509	2017
1941	49	74	242	498	920	407	2190
1951	76	91	327	608	1124	569	2795
1961	102	129	437	719	711	172	2270
1971	148	173	558	827	623	147	2476
1981	218	270	743	1059	758	253	3301
1991	300	345	947	1167	740	197	3696
2001	441	496	1388	1563	1041	232	5161
2011	505	605	1905	2233	2187	498	7933

Source: Census of India, 2011

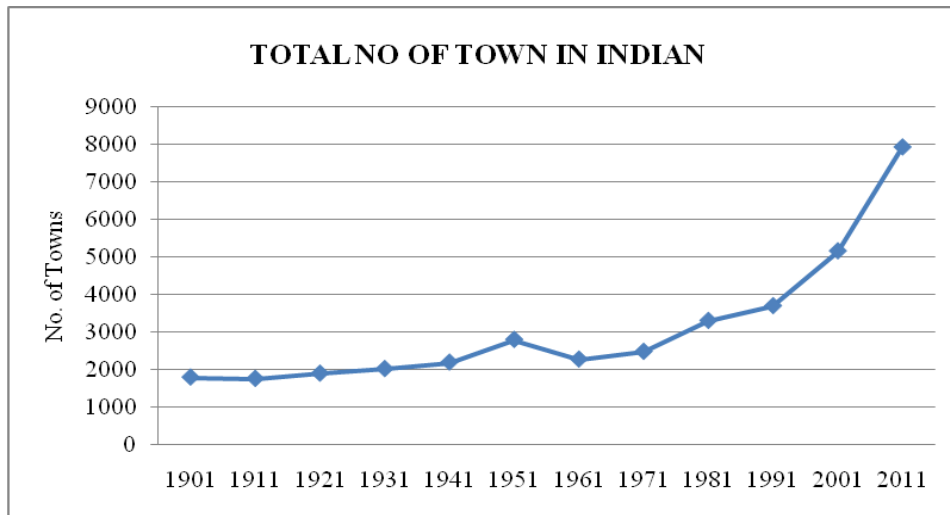


Fig. 1

The number of Class I and Class II cities are the less Class III cities. In 1901, there were 24 cities in Class I, 23 cities in Class II and 130 cities in Class III category. That was

increased upto 505 cities in Class I, 605 cities in Class II and 1905 cities in Class III category in 2011. In Maharashtra, the Class IV cities are more as compared to Class V and VI cities.

TABLE -VI  
PERCENTAGE OF TOWN IN INDIAN

Census Years	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total
1901	1.34	1.28	7.25	21.83	41.55	26.75	100
1911	1.31	2.28	7.69	20.75	40.31	27.66	100
1921	1.53	2.38	7.65	19.54	38.75	30.15	100
1931	1.73	2.77	9.08	21.52	39.66	25.24	100
1941	2.23	3.37	11.06	22.74	42.02	18.58	100
1951	2.72	3.25	11.69	21.76	40.22	20.36	100
1961	4.49	5.68	19.25	31.67	31.33	7.58	100
1971	5.97	6.98	22.53	33.42	25.16	5.94	100
1981	6.61	8.17	22.52	32.08	22.96	7.66	100
1991	8.11	9.33	25.62	31.58	20.03	5.33	100
2001	8.55	9.62	26.89	30.28	20.17	4.49	100
2011	6.36	7.62	24.02	28.15	27.57	6.28	100

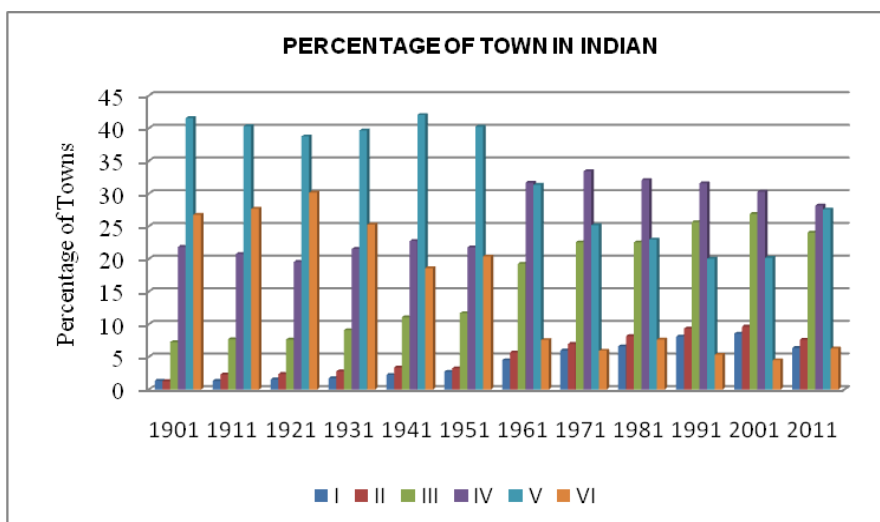


Fig. 2

In 1901, 391 cities are in Class IV, 744 cities in Class V and 479 cities in Class VI category and same situation of 2011 that was increased upto 2233 cities in class IV, 2187 cities in

Class V and 498 cities in class VI. Over all, the Class III and IV cities are more than the other categories.

**TABLE -V**  
**PERCENTAGE OF TOWN POPULATION IN INDIA**

Census Years	Class wise % of Population					
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1901	57.6	6.7	9.2	11.7	11.4	3.5
1911	58.1	6.5	9.3	11.2	11.1	3.9
1921	58.8	6.6	9.1	10.5	10.7	4.2
1931	59.6	6.9	9.8	10.5	10	3.2
1941	62.2	7.3	9.7	9.6	9.2	2
1951	64.7	6.5	10	8.6	8.2	2
1961	67.8	7.4	11	8.4	4.7	0.6
1971	70.5	7.5	10.8	7.6	3.2	0.4
1981	72.7	7.9	9.7	6.7	2.6	0.4
1991	74.6	7.9	9.6	5.7	2	0.3
2001	76.9	7.3	9	4.9	1.7	0.2
2011	77	6.6	8.5	4.9	2.6	0.3

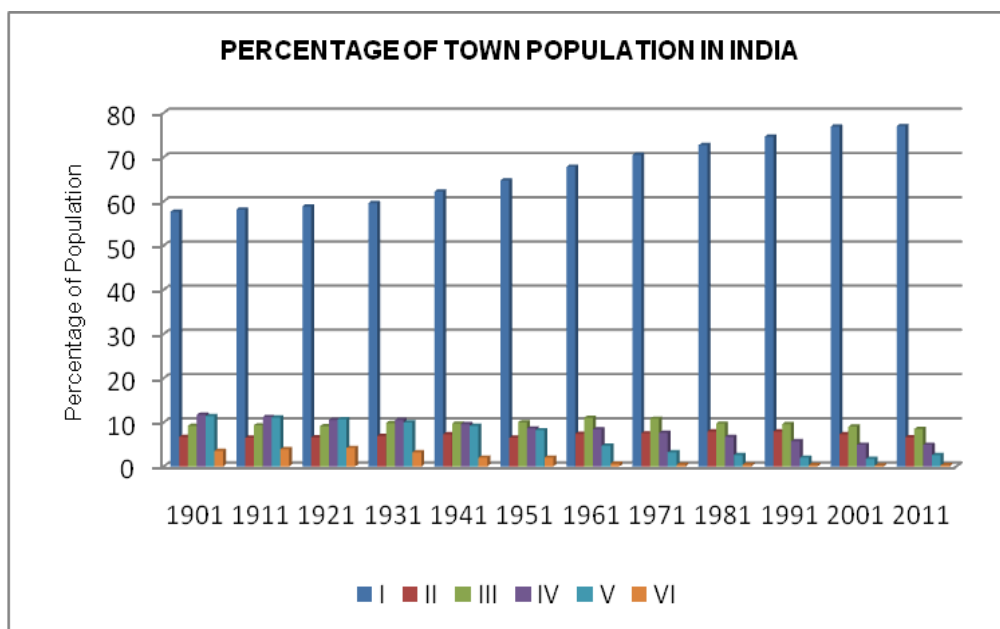


Fig. 3

The percentage of town population was highest of Class I town as compared to other Classes towns. The Class I town population is increasing since 1901. In 1901, the percentage of Class I town was 57.6 and that was increased upto 77 per cent in 2011. In the Class II town, the percentage of population in was 6.7 percent and increased upto 7.4 in 1961. The percentage of population was decreasing, that was 6.6 percent in 2011. The percentage of population in Class III town in 1901 was 9.2 per cent and that was increases upto 11 per cent in

1961, The class III town decreases in 8.5 per cent 2011. The percentage of Class III town shows the zigzag trend.

The percentage of Class IV town's was decreasing continuously from 1901. In 1901 that was 11.7 percent and 4.9 percent in 2011. From 1901 (11.4) to 1991 (2) the percentage of Class V towns was decreases after 1991 decreases in 2001 (1.7) and again increases in 2011 (2.6). The percentage of Class VI towns is always below 3 percent except 1921 (4.2 percent).

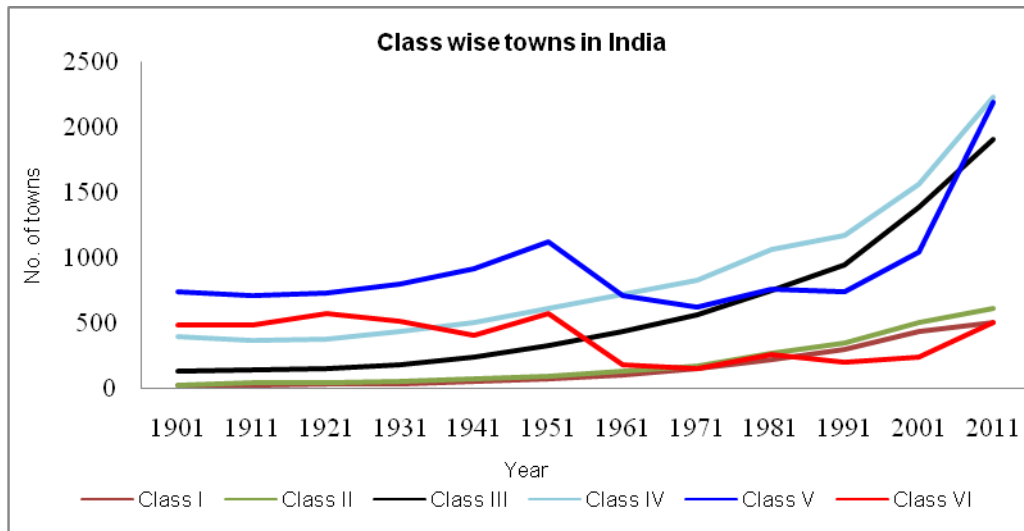


Fig. 4

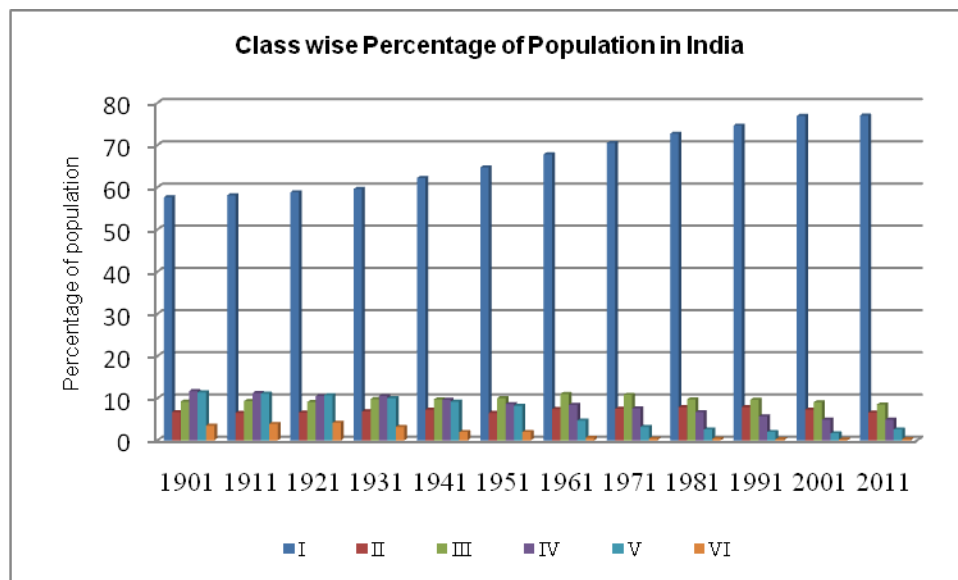


Fig. 5

**8. Urban size class-wise growth trends**

The census of India has given the classification of urban settlements into six classes based on population size. The analysis of the size-class structure in the Maharashtra state furnishes an important diagnostic clue for investigation of the

trend of urbanization, the nature, organization and mode of functional relationship between a major urban centre and rural populace. Table -IV shows the class-wise distribution of cities/towns in Maharashtra since 1961 to 2011.

**TABLE -VI**  
**CLASS-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF CITIES/TOWNS IN MAHARASHTRA**  
**1961-2011**

Year	Class-I	Class-II	Class-III	Class-IV	Class-V	Class-VI	Total
1961	15	13	44	82	71	12	237
1971	19	24	58	88	48	9	246
1981	28	27	73	85	35	6	254
1991	31	28	109	85	25	4	282
2001	37	46	141	118	100	48	490
2011	44	54	168	129	114	27	536

Source - Compiled by researcher based on Census 2011

The number of Class I and Class II cities are the less Class III cities. In 1961, there were 15 cities in Class I, 13 cities in Class II and 44 cities in Class III category. That was increased upto 44 cities in Class I, 54 cities in Class II and 168 cities in Class III category in 2011. In Maharashtra, the Class

IV cities are more as compared to Class V and VI cities. In 1961, 82 cities are in Class IV, 71 cities in Class V and 12 cities in Class VI category. Over all, the Class III and IV cities are more than the other categories.

**TABLE - VII  
PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER OF TOWN**

Year	Class-I	Class-II	Class-III	Class-IV	Class-V	Class-VI	Total
1961	6.32	5.48	18.56	34.59	29.95	5.07	100
1971	7.73	9.76	23.58	35.77	19.51	3.65	100
1981	11.03	10.63	28.74	33.46	13.78	2.36	100
1991	10.99	9.93	38.66	30.15	8.86	1.41	100
2001	7.55	9.39	28.77	24.09	20.41	9.79	100
2011	8.21	10.07	31.36	24.06	21.26	5.04	100

Source - Compiled by researcher based on Census 2011

The contribution of Class I cities to the total urban population of Maharashtra was only 6.32 percent in the beginning of the present century (1961), which steadily increased to 8.21 in 2011. The Class I cities are growing at a much faster rate and their contribution to the progress of

urbanization is overwhelming. The share of Class II towns to urbanization has been more than the Class I cities and less than the Class III towns. The percentage of Class II cities are 5.48 in 1961, while it increased upto 10.07 in 2011.

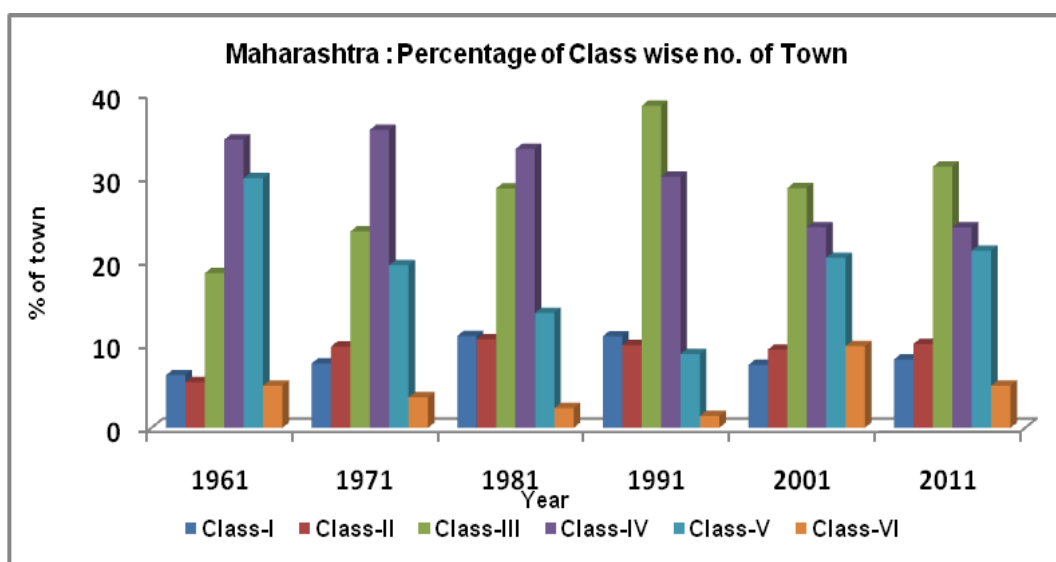


Fig. 6

In respect of contribution of Class III towns to urbanization, the study shows increasing trend that was 18.6 percent in 1961 and 31.3 in 2011. Similar declining trend is shown in Class IV cities. The percentage of Class IV cities in 1961 was 34.6 and 24.1 in 2011. The Class V towns show the declining trend upto 1991, after 1991 the percentage of Class V towns was increased. The percentage of Class V cities was 30.0 in 1961, 8.9 in 1991 and 21.3 in 2011. The percentage of Class VI cities

was decreasing in 1961 (5.1 percent) to 1991 (1.4 percent), in 2001 it was increased upto 9.8 percent and in 2011 again it decreased upto 5.0 percent.

The cities in general are growing faster and their proportional contribution to the progress of urbanization has been increasing manifold. This is perhaps because of the fact that the rural migrants.

**TABLE - VIII  
PERCENTAGE OF TOWN POPULATION**

Year	Class-I	Class-II	Class-III	Class-IV	Class-V	Class-VI	Total
1961	63.86	8.01	12.53	10.46	4.77	0.37	100
1971	67.95	10.55	10.69	8.15	2.39	0.27	100
1981	73.81	8.42	9.66	5.69	1.31	1.11	100
1991	74.25	8.28	12.39	4.35	0.68	0.05	100
2001	75.78	7.59	10.29	4.12	1.71	0.51	100
2011	76.67	7.38	10.45	3.63	1.66	0.21	100

Source - Compiled by researcher based on Census 2011

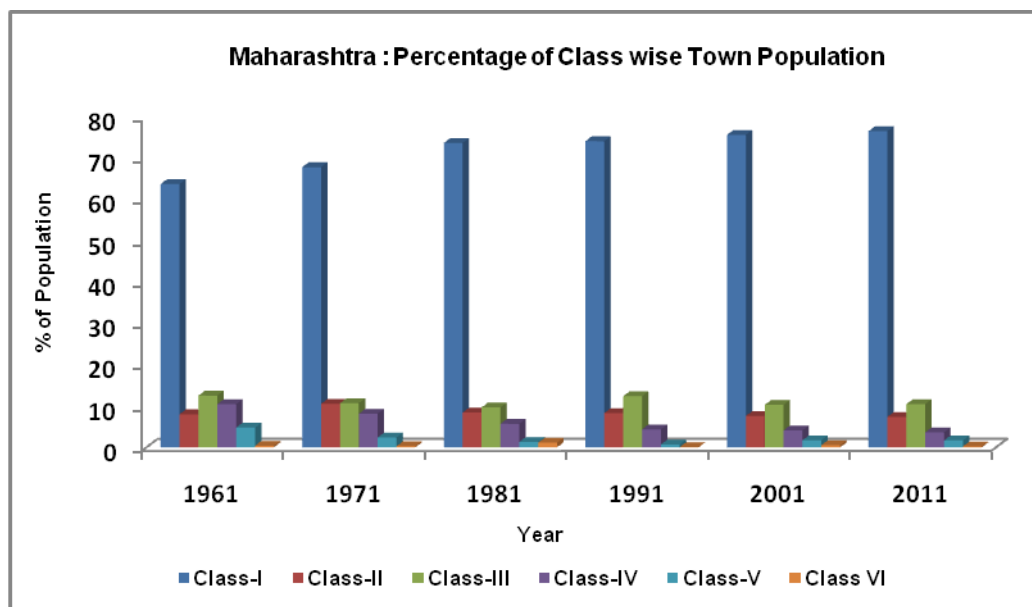


Fig. 7

The percentage of town population was highest of Class I town as compared to other Classes towns (Table VI). The Class I towns' population is increasing since 1961. In 1961, the percentage of Class I town was 63.86 and that was increased upto 76.67 in 2011. In the Class II town, the percentage of population in was 8.01 percent and increased upto 10.55 in 1971. After 1971, the percentage of population was decreasing, that was 8.42 in 1981 and decreased upto 7.38 percent in 2011. As per the percentage of population, Class III towns got second rank. In 1961, percentage of Class III town was 12.53 that decrease upto 9.66 percent in 1981. This percentage was increases 12.39 in 1991, decreases 10.29 in 2001, and again increases upto 10.45 percent in 2011. The percentage of Class III town shows the zigzag trend.

The percentage of Class IV town's was decreasing continuously from 1961. In 1961 that was 10.46 percent and 3.63 percent in 2011. From 1961 (4.77) to 1991 (0.68) the percentage of Class V towns was decreases after 1991 increases in 2001 (1.71) and again decreases in 2011 (1.66). The percentage of Class VI towns is always below 1 percent except 1981 (1.11 percent).

Generally, the percentage of Class I towns is increasing and all other Classes are decreasing in Maharashtra. The Class I towns are increasing very rapidly because of the availability of jobs, education, hospital and other facility is more as compared to other Class town.

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## 9. Conclusions

India is urbanization rapidly and about 377 million people live in 7935 towns and cities, across the country which constitutes about 31.2 per cent of the total population. The number of towns has significantly increased from 2219 in 1951 to 7935 in 2011. There is high inequality in the distribution of the urban population by size class categories. About 70 per cent of the total urban population lives in 468 towns in Indian.

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