# Shimla : A Study of Growth, Distribution and Density of Population (1971 and 2001)

## Abstract

The study of population holds a very important place because population, society and development are intimately related to one another. A constant search for information about the size and resources of human societies is an important part of social studies. There is a long history of record keeping that represents the interest of people getting an account of the number of people, where they live and why they prefer to live in particular places. The present paper makes an attempt to study the growth, distribution and density of population of Shimla in 1971 and 2001.

**Keywords:** Population, Growth, Distribution and Density.
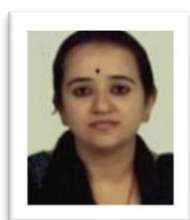
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## Introduction

Population is one of the most important elements that cover the Earth's surface and is studied by a majority of disciplines in social sciences according to their specific perspectives.

Some of the oldest and most popular questions about human society concerns the land-man ratio. How many people can the finite limits of the world land area support? What are the possible ranges of growth? How will the continuous growth affect the well being of individual or societies. Here, then comes the need to study where the population lives, its density and distribution, why and what is the rate at which it is growing; as this is linked to the overall development of a society.

## Aim Of The Study

The paper makes an attempt to study the changes in the growth, distribution and density of population between 1971 and 2001.

## Database and Methodology

The data for the present study was collected from District Census Handbook, Shimla District for the year 1971 and 2001. Additional information was acquired from the Imperial and Provincial Gazetteer of undivided Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Information on population was also taken from Voters List from the year 1975 and 2002 obtained from Municipal Corporation, Shimla. The study is based on the ward wise data of Shimla. To facilitate handling, data was converted into percentages. The cartographic representation of data, Choropleth method has been used.

The present paper makes an attempt to study the population characteristics of Shimla under the following sub-heads:-
1. Growth of Population.
2. Distribution of Population.
3. Density of Population.

## Growth of Population

Growth of population refers to a change in the number of inhabitants in a territory during a specific period of time. Fertility, mortality and migration are three basic components of population growth in an area. Another reason can be a change in the jurisdiction of Municipal boundaries. Shimla is the only Class I city in Himachal Pradesh. In order to achieve its present status, it has passed through various growth phases.

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**Table 1.1: Shimla - Growth of Population, (1901-2001)**

| Sr. No. | Census Years | Population | Growth rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1901 | 13,960 | - |
| 2. | 1911 | 19,405 | +39.00 |
| 3. | 1921 | 27,213 | +40.24 |
| 4. | 1931 | 18,144 | -33.33 |
| 5. | 1941 | 18,348 | +1.12 |
| 6. | 1951 | 46,150 | +151.53 |
| 7. | 1961 | 42,597 | -7.70 |
| 8. | 1971 | 55,368 | +29.98 |
| 9. | 1981 | 70,604 | +27.52 |
| 10. | 1991 | 82,054 | +16.21 |
| 11. | 2001 | 1,42,155 | +42.28 |

**Source:- Census of India, 2001**

The table shows that:-

1. Population of the city increased from 13,960 in 1901 to 55,368 in 1971 to 1,42,155 in 2001.
2. The population in 1971 was 396% that of 1901, whereas in 1931, it was 29% that of 1901.
3. The growth rate from 1901 to 1921 was smooth between 1901-21, Shimla on the internal front witnessed rapid population growth and decentralisation of population. It was due to the policy adopted by the Municipality restricting construction in Central Shimla. (Interim Development Report H.P, 1971)
4. The growth rate for the decade 1921-31 was negative mainly due to natural calamities, epidemics etc.
5. During the decade 1931-41, there was an increase in population and the growth rate was positive at the rate of +1.12. the increase in population was growing importance of Shimla due to its administrative functions and status of a hill resort. Besides, it also had a floating population.
6. During the decade 1941-51, Shimla witnessed a growth rate of +151.53. this was mainly due to shifting of the capital of Punjab state to Shimla after partition. Owing to administrative functions, the city gained prime importance and rapid increase in population.
7. A decline was registered during the decade 1951-61 when the city experienced negative growth rate of -7.70. its population dropped from 45,160 in 1951 to 42,597 in 1961. The decrease was a result of Punjab government moving its headquarters from Shimla to Chandigarh and population of Jutogh being enumerated as a separate entity from Shimla.
8. During the decade 1961-1971, the city had a positive growth rate with a population of 55,368. This was due to increase in developmental activities in the city. The turning point in Shimla's growth and development took place in 1971, when Himachal Pradesh got its statehood and Shimla became its Capital ( Shandil,    )
9. The decade 1971-81, witnessed a positive growth due to attainment of statehood with Shimla being the administrative capital. There was a superimposition of functions and the multi-functional character of Shimla led to phenomenal growth in population. The population grew to 70,604 in 1981. (Census, 1981). The excessive burden of population on the town's natural resources aggravated its many landuse problems e.g. accommodation, water supply, sewage disposal, congestion etc.

10. The decade 1981-91 witnessed a positive growth of population (+16.21) but the growth was low as compared to the previous decade which witnessed the growth rate of +27.52%. the population for the decade 1981-91 was 82,054. Finally, welfare programmes and extension of intensive employment oriented infrastructure for rural youth were responsible for reduction in growth of population. Also, the lack of developable land within the Municipal limits could be a reason for the growth reduction.

11. The decade 1991-2001 witnessed a remarkable increase in population, the growth rate was 42.28%. The population rose to 1,42,155. Shimla was and is at present the only Class I city of Himachal Pradesh and has maintained its status since 1991. Shimla enjoys a very strong element of primacy and its multi-functional character has added to its attraction. It accounts for 23.9% of total urban population of Himachal Pradesh which itself speaks for its importance. The growth of the city has impacted its morphology, demographic structure, environment, social structure and infrastructure. Shimla was originally designed for population of 25,000 persons but is now housing an enormous and fast growing population in addition to the tourist population. The growing population has put a lot of pressure on the city and its resources and have put a question mark on poor planning of the city.

**Distribution of Population**

Distribution simply means "where do the people live". Distribution of population in any area is generally characterised by clustering in certain pockets. Distribution of population refers to the ways people get located in their spatial spread. In other words, it emphasises the pattern of actual space location of population (Chandra, 1998).

The distribution of population in the present paper has been studied separately for two different years i.e. 1971 and 2001 which enables the comparative study of population.

**Population Distribution (1971)**

In 1971, the total population of Shimla was

55,368 spread over an area of 19.55 Sq. KM. the average density of population was 12813.4 persons per Sq. KM. the main characteristic of population distribution in Shimla in 1971 were as follows:-

1. The main areas of concentration of population were the old parts of the town i.e. the areas inhabited and developed by the Britishers and the areas where the natives resided.
2. The areas around the old part of the town. The reason for high concentration of population in these parts was due to the following reasons:-
(i) These areas were already inhabited and were areas of earlier occupancy. As a result these areas had better access and better civic amenities & facilities. Also there is a general tendency of population to settle in already developed areas.
(ii) These areas of high concentration of population where the core places or hubs of the developmental activities in Shimla. Easy approach and accessibility to these places was yet another reason of population clustering in these areas.
1. High land value and prices in the central areas led the people to stay in these, that time prime locations boasting of prime and high priced properties.
2. Some areas like Lower Bazaar, Middle Bazaar, Ram Bazaar, Sabji Mandi became more congested as these served both residential and commercial purposes.
3. Certain areas like Nabha which were earlier inhabited by British residents near the Railway Station were acquired by the government for building up residences for govt. officials and subordinate or junior level staff.
4. Population concentration was most intense in the central parts of the town and immediately adjoining areas.
5. Population thickening was also higher near the market areas as well as along the roads such as the Circular Road, the main road leading into the town and the clustering of population on this road was mainly from near the bus stand to the lift.

The main reason for concentration of population in the old, central and already inhabited areas were:-
1. Safety and security reasons.
2. High property values in these areas.
3. Better infrastructure and developmental activities.
4. Easy access and connectivity.

The population also flocked in around the core areas. Here, they had the privilege of more space at comparatively lower prices and also the advantage of nearness to the core. Thus, the immediate adjoining areas attracted massive population growth seconding the central areas.
1. Lower Bazaar, Middle Bazaar, Ram Bazaar, Sabji Mandi, Krishna Nagar were areas of heaviest concentration of population.
2. Chota Shimla, Sanjauli, Lakkar Bazaar were areas having moderate concentration of population.
3. The areas that attracted only a meagre population were Jakhu, Summerhill, Tutikandi,

Bharari, Kanlog etc.
The reason for low concentration/distribution of population was:
1. Areas such as Tootikandi and Bharari had vast areas devoted to agricultural practices.
2. Some areas were heavily forested such as Jakhu area.
3. Some of these areas had a disjunct location from the core and were handicapped by lack of access, poor infrastructural and overall development.

**Distribution of Population- 2001**

Shimla had a population of 1,42,161 in 2001 and boasted a growth rate of +31.01% for the decade 1991-2001. It accounted for 23.9% of the total urban population of Himachal Pradesh, which itself is an indicator of its dynamism and urban sprawl. The dominant administrative character followed by its multi-functional nature has attracted an inflow of masses/population which has put a lot of pressure on the fragile environment and resources of Shimla. The hilly nature of the town offers a limited scope of expansion and as a result is suffocating from the pressure of population. The city has undergone a lot of changes since its evolution and transition from a small town to a sprawling city which has brought about a major change in its morphology, environment, social structure and overall infrastructure.

The population has increased manifold but there have not been much infrastructural developmental activities in terms of its spatio-functional-population-environmental requirements. Poor planning of the town burdened with population pressure has led to cropping up of unplanned residential areas at a number of places. The population distribution in Shimla can be explained as under:-
Main areas of population concentration are:-
1. Old part of the town.
2. Areas adjoining the old part of the town.
3. Central part of the town as well as eastern and south-eastern parts.
Reasons for concentration of population in these areas are:
1. Better infrastructure.
2. Hub of major economic, social and educational institutions.
Higher concentration of population is seen along and around the market areas.

Linear as well as clustered patterns of distribution of population along the roads. Higher is the road in hierarchy greater is the concentration of population. A huge cluster of population is found living along the Circular Road with maximum concentration near Gurudwara Sri Singh Sabha near main bus stand Shimla, Krishna Nagar, Sabji Mandi, Anaj Mandi and the areas near Ripon Hospital.

The city portrays an unsystematic and haphazard growth especially in the central/core areas steaming with congestion. Some houses open up into the incapacious streets and have been converted into shops.

Sanjauli, Chota Shimla, Sabji Mandi, Krishna Nagar, Lower Bazaar, Ram Bazaar are some of the

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highly unsystematically developed areas with haphazard construction and highly congested. However, these are also the hub of commercial, social and educational activities. Higher concentration of population in these areas is also a result of nearness to the core, easy access and better facilities and amenities.

To decongest the areas of high population, some new settlements have come up to ease the population pressure such as Dhalli, Tutu and New Shimla. Also the area around Tutikandi, Boileuganj, Summerhill, Shankli, Bharari, Tarahall, Annadale is growing fast and the population is getting disseminated to these areas. Some of these were earlier not a part of municipal corporation and have now been incorporated and some got included between 2002-2006.

**Density of Population**

Population density is a measurement of population per unit area or unit volume density of population, second to distribution is the most important attribute of population. It generates processes which greatly affect the morphological and functional attributes of an urban place (Sharma, 1985, pg. 22). Density is expressed as the ratio between the size of population and area.

Shimla represents an agglomerated mass of densely packed houses covering the entire municipal area. In Shimla, pockets of high density are separated from those having low density and the population declines as one move from the core of periphery. However, the fall in density as one moves out from the core to periphery is not abrupt.

In general, the areas of older occupancy and central parts of the town, which are the hub of commercial activities, have a high density of population. In the core, high density of population is associated with (i) assured quantum of physical, moral and economic protection alluring the settlers and (ii) as in many oriental cities, the high degree of spatial association between economy and society, that is of the places of work and residence, specially among the traders living along with their families has resulted in high concentration of population. (Sharma, 1985, pg. 24).

In the peripheral areas the reason for comparatively low density of population are:-
1. These are the areas of recent emergence or newly emerging areas.
2. Adjunct location from the core which is the hub of all major social, political, economic and commercial activities.
3. Spacious layout of residential houses and other structures with extensive vacant compounds or yards, yielding low density of population in these areas.
4. Less developed infrastructure due to disjunct location from the core.

The expansion or enlargement of Shimla exhibits unsystematic growth and stands in disarray. The haphazard growth is reflected in its core which is highly congested in nature. The residential built up is marked by narrow winding streets, some of which terminates into dead ends. Most of the buildings are three or four storeyed and ill planned.

**Density of Population (1971)**

The total population of Shimla as per census 1971 was 55,368 covering a total municipal area of 19.55 Sq. KM. the average density of population within municipal area of Shimla was 12,813.4 persons per Sq. KM. In 1971, the town was divided into 19 wards.

**Table 1.2: shimla - density of population, 1971**

| Ward No. | Area in Sq KM | Population | Density |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0.60 | 3,794 | 6,323.3 |
| 2 | 1.48 | 3,398 | 2,295.9 |
| 3 | 0.60 | 2,584 | 4,306.6 |
| 4 | 1.66 | 2,592 | 1,561.4 |
| 5 | 1.47 | 3,578 | 2,434.0 |
| 6 | 2.17 | 3,550 | 1,635.9 |
| 7 | 0.36 | 2,547 | 7,075 |
| 8 | 0.04 | 2,211 | 55,275 |
| 9 | 0.04 | 1,657 | 41,425 |
| 10 | 0.04 | 2,287 | 57,150 |
| 11 | 0.08 | 2,372 | 29,650 |
| 12 | 0.29 | 4,238 | 14,613.7 |
| 13 | 0.61 | 2,917 | 4,781.9 |
| 14 | 0.73 | 2,396 | 3,282.1 |
| 1 | 0.62 | 2,931 | 4,724.4 |
| 16 | 1.66 | 2,720 | 1,638.5 |
| 17 | 2.43 | 3,714 | 1,528.3 |
| 18 | 3.63 | 2,749 | 757.3 |
| 19 | 1.04 | 3,114 | 2,994.2 |
| Total | 19.55 | 55, 368 | 2,43,455.5 |

**Average Density: 2832.1 Persons per Sq.KM**
**Source: Directorate of Himanchal Pradesh Cencus operations, 1971**

The pattern of density is indicative of the extent of built in area and open spaces in different parts of the town. The density of population and area having high concentration of population were the main/core areas of Shimla which were also the areas of older occupancy. To understand the spatial variations in density, four type of density values have been identified:-
1. Areas of very high density.
2. Areas of high density.
3. Areas of low density.
4. Areas of very low density.

**Areas of Very High Density (Above 14,613 persons per Sq. KM)**

The areas of very high density of population in Shimla were ward No:- 8,9,10,11 and 12. These formed the central areas of the town and were areas of heaviest concentration of population. Crowding in this part of the town was a result of early occupancy, going back to the period when the British ruled the country. These were the areas that the natives inhabited and were congested and had haphazard and shabby growth. The huge influx of population in these areas was also due to low prices of land which were affordable to the natives. The early occupancy in these areas was sustained by residentail inertia and continued attration to protected sites and proximity to families of the same community (Sharma 1985, pg. 24). These areas of very high density included parts of Lower Bazaar, Mall, Middle Bazaar, Ram Bazaar,

Phagli, Sabji Mandi, Ganj Bazaar, Purusharthi Basti, Krishna Nagar, area around Gurudwara Sri Singh Sabha on the Cart Road near the main bus stand and Dwarkagarh. These areas have been thickly populated since the British regime and were called the Bazaar ward areas. These areas were inhabited by the middle,lower middle and low income groups as these areas had low rental and land values. Another reason for high concentration of population in these wards can be attributed to the attainment of statehood and rapid growth and development in the town which led to a lot of constructional and infrastructural development. This attracted the immigration of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour who started residing in these areas as these were the central areas, had easy access and most importantly had low rental values. In the later years, many people who could afford higher rental or land values left these areas and settled down in other areas/places due to a lot of congestion and haphazard growth. This area mainly emerged as a permanent middle and low income group area with high density residential and commercial area. The commercial activities particularly acted as magnets to attract population. The market areas that developed in these parts of the town not only catered to the needs of the local people but operated as market areas of higher heirarchical order that catered to almost the entire residential population of Shimla, even at present.

**Map 1.1: Density of Population, 1971**
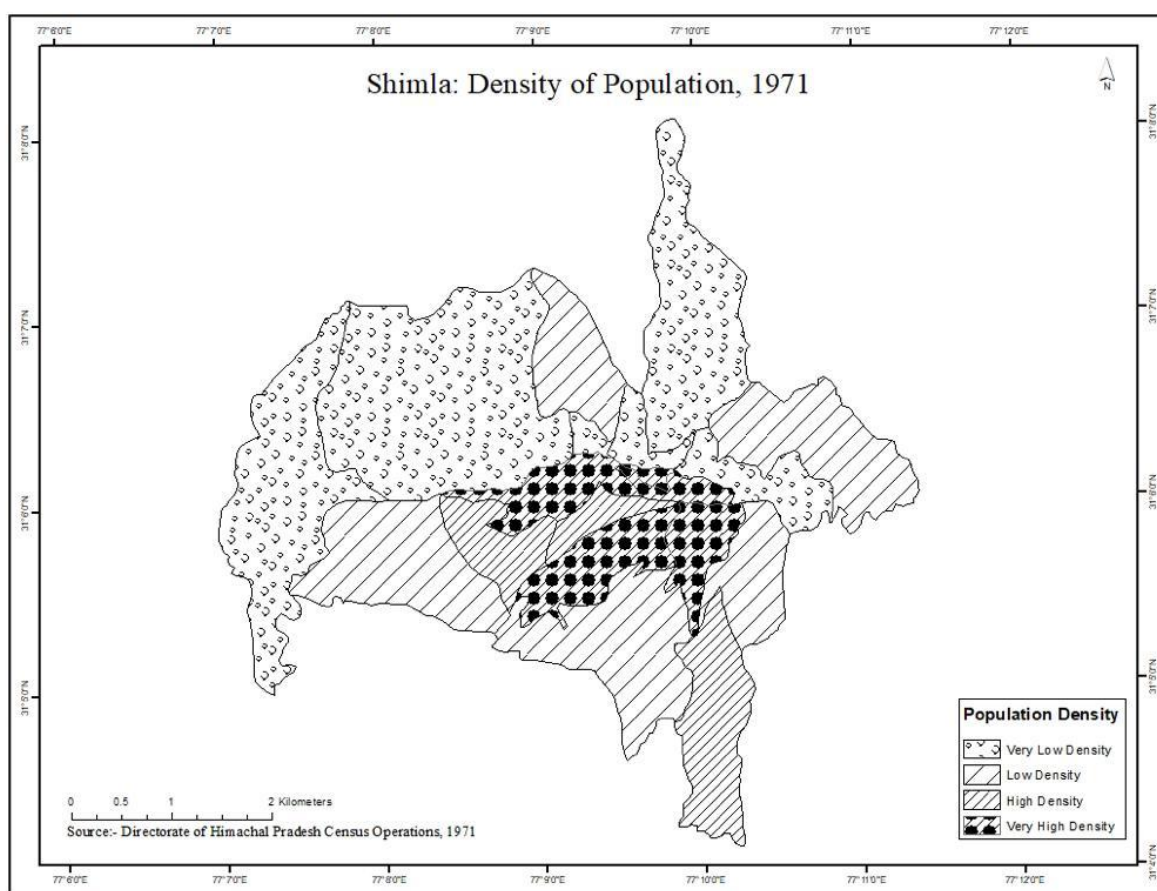


Another justification for high density in these areas can be due to the fact, that some of these areas are resided by low income groups having low literacy rates and high scheduled caste population. These areas like Krishna Nagar, Sabji Mandi, Bus Stand near Gurudwara Sri Singh Sabha, ear Ripon Hospital and the bazaar area around comprised of the population belonging to the low income group socially and economically backward population which either lacked awareness about birth control measures or did not find the need for small sized families as more members in the family meant more hands to work and earn. Also, preference to the male child as in other Hindu dominated areas was also one of the reasons for high population which led a family to keep on having children until a male child was born to them.Very high density of population in these areas can be attributed to a host of factors:-

1.  These occupied the central areas of the town and had easy access.
2.  Sustained commercial and residential inertia.
3.  Physical, moral and economic protection.
4.  Assured economic and commercial profits.
5.  High degree of spatial association between economy and society i.e. proximity of place of work and residence specially among the shopkeepers and traders living with their families.
6.  Proximity to the main bus stand which acted as an important service area.
7.  Heavy concentration of population along the Cart

Road also referred to as the Circular Road.

8. The commercial activities induced a considerable movement of population into the town. Many Sikh families and Sood families who were originally from Punjab and Kangra (H.P) migrated here to trade and got settled permanently in these areas.

The high concentration of population in these parts of the town was associated with:-

1. Wall to wall congested houses.
2. Double or triple storeyed houses.
3. Many houses in ruins and in ramshackle condition.
4. Narrow streets.
5. Absence of open spaces.
6. Large sized families having joint family system
7. Residences cum commercial activities were simultaneously been carried out.many people had opened up shops in their residences.

## Areas of High Density (Between 4,306-14,613 persons per Sq. KM)

Ward No. 1,2,3, and 15 had a high density of population in 1971. These areas adjoined the core areas of the town and were resided mainly by the middle income group families. Two major type of areas can be identified in high density zone. (i) Evolved Areas. (ii) Planned Areas. The evolved areas were located close to and around the core areas of the town and were the result of the spill over from its saturated parts and also due to some new settlers from outside the city. The planned areas such as Nabha and Railway Colony in South-West and South of Shimla emerged in the British period and were resided in by the English and these posh areas of the town were referred to as Station Ward areas. These were later planned by the government for higher, middle, middle and low income groups. The size of houses varied from small to medium. Both these areas, with the passage of time have expanded and the population has increased manifold. The areas falling in high density zone are Chota Shimla, Chaura Maidan, Nabha, Railway Colony and Phagli. These areas were mainly residential in character leaving Chaura Maidan and Chota Shimla which were both residential and service areas. These areas accommodated a number of government offices and private offices and some important administrative structures like the Vidhan Sabha, Himachal Pradesh Secretariat, Railway Board Building and the Akash Vani. Chaura Maidan also boasted of two major elite hotels of the town, The Cecil (Oberoi's) and Hotel Peterhoff. The main reason for high density of population can be jolted down as under:-

1. Nearness to the core.
2. Spill over effect of the core.
3. Primarily residential nature.
4. Close vicinity to the main bus stand,
5. Easy access.
6. Nearness to educational institutions, medical centres and hospitals, recreational areas and other religious and social institutions.
7. High degree of spatial association between economy and society i.e. of the places of work and residence, specially among the traders living along with their families has resulted in high concentration of population. (Sharma, 1985, pg 24)

8. Superimposition of functions also attracted the population to settle down in these areas.
9. Land value and rents were also not very high in these areas.
10. Establishment of government residential colonies for government employees yielding complete residential landuse.
11. Advantages of a good site.

## Areas of Low Density:- (Between 1638-4306 persons per Sq. KM)

Ward Nos 2,5,14,16 and 19 have a low density of population. The areas falling under the low density zone are Knollswood BCS, Toland, Sanjauli, Part of Mall area, area around Fish Market, area between Combermere to KNH and Bemloi. These areas were resided by people belonging to various income groups. However, a segregation can be seen with respect to their spatial distribution.

1. High income groups resided on the Mall and surrounding areas.
2. Middle and low income groups resided in the other areas.

Low density of population in these areas was due to:-

1. In 1971, the developmental activities had just begun. The population in ratio to the land area was comparatively low.
2. Mall and its surrounding areas were posh areas where the land prices and rentals were very high. These areas were occupied mainly by the high income groups.
3. The Mall roas area also had low density of population as the building up of or reconstruction of any new structure on the Mall is prohibited by the law of the state.
4. Areas like Knollswood, BCS, Sanjauli and Toland were marked by large open spaces and very less construction which automatically led to low density of population in these areas. These areas also could not provide the assured quantum of physical, moral and economic protection which could have attracted the settlers.
5. These low density areas lacked well developed infrastructure and basic facilities and amenities. Also the poor access to these areas caused by lack of public transportation system was a main factor for less people being attracted to settle in these areas.
6. Majority of these areas suffered from disadvantages of the site and poor connectivity.
7. Sanjauli was one of the less densely populated area in Shimla which has an orthodox belief attached to it. Sanjauli was a empty spacious area covered with grassland and trees and was disliked and not resided as the cremation ground was located here. The orthodoxy prevailed to the extent that even the name of the place early in the morning was not taken as was considered a bad omen.
8. The peripheral location of some areas like Boileuganj and Kaithu also led to a sparse population. Difficult access was another reason for low density of population.

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**Areas of very low Density (Below 1638 persons per Sq. KM)**

Ward Nos 4,6,17 & 18 were the areas that had a very low density of population. The areas falling in the zone were Lakkar Bazaar, Bemloi, Ruldu Bhatta, Shankli, Longwood, Bharari, Summerhill, Boileuganj, Chaura Maidan, Kaithu and Annadale. These areas were inhabited largely by middle and low income groups. Lakkar bazaar and Logwood areas adjoined the core areas while the others were located far from the oldest part of the town. The areas can be divided into two typological groups (i) Mainly non-residential in character with more open spaces and vacant land or area devoted to other kinds of landuse. (ii) Areas handicapped by disadvantages of site.

Shankli, Bharari, Summerhill and Chaura Maidan were he areas with more open spaces and vacant land . a large area devoted to the service sector including educational institutions, govt. offices, recreational and commercial centres. Thus, not purely residential in character, these areas had very low density of population.

The areas such as Ruldu Bhatta, Bemloi, Lakkar Bazaar, Kaithu and Annadale suffered from the disadvantages of site as these lacked easy access and connectivity. Some of these are shady & non sunny and their cold nature also acts as a barrier for the settlement of population. The reasons for very low density of population can be jotted down as under:-

1. Comparatively bigger areas as compared to other wards. The spatial dimensions are bigger and the population is sparse.
2. Peripheral location, poor access, inconvenience and lack of infrastructure caused less populaion to reside in these areas.
3. Disadvantages of site.
4. Superimposition of functional and mixed landuse, areas not purely residential in character.
5. More open spaces and vacant lands.

These are some of the reasons for very low density values in these areas/wards of Shimla.

**Density of Population (2001)**

The total population of Shimla as per census 2001 was 1,42,555 persons covering a total area of 28.53 Sq. KM. The Average density of population in 2001 was 4,996.6 persons per Sq. KM. In 2001, the city was divided into 25 wards. Here, we see that the number of wards as well as the area of the city was also increased engulfing the nearby sub urban areas. The population in three decade increased manifold. 87, 187 persons were added to the total population. The area was increased by 8.98 Sq. KM.

Shimla has experienced tremendous expansion since its establishment. The population has been growing steadily and it has been seen that the areas of high density are swelling up with even more population and many low density areas in 1971 have become high and moderate density areas in 2001. This has been due to increased developmental activities, better transport connectivity, services, expansion of institutional, commercial and service centres. Shimla is the administrative capital of Himachal, the seat of H.P government and has a strong element of primacy. Here we find a superimposition of functions which has increased its importance among other towns of Himachal and has attracted considerable population for various reasons. High population growth and urban sprawl are related to the multi-functional character of the town and are responsible for the high concentration of population in Shimla city.

Table 1.3 Throws Light On The Wardwise Density of Shimla City in 2001.

**TABLE 1.3: Shimla - Density of Population, 2001**

| Ward No | Name of Ward | Population | Area in Sq. KM | Density |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bharari | 4311 | 1.37 | 3316.1 |
| 2 | Ruldu Bhatta | 6329 | 2.11 | 3102.4 |
| 3 | Kaithu | 4621 | 1.14 | 4053.5 |
| 4 | Annadale | 5175 | 1.91 | 2709.4 |
| 5 | Summerhill | 5058 | 2.62 | 1930.5 |
| 6 | Tutu | 7124 | 1.30 | 5480 |
| 7 | Boileuganj | 7208 | 1.36 | 5300 |
| 8 | Tutikandi | 4596 | 1.50 | 3024 |
| 9 | Nabha | 4819 | 0.53 | 9092.4 |
| 10 | Phagli | 4558 | 0.73 | 6243.8 |
| 11 | Krishna Nagar | 5899 | 0.47 | 12551.6 |
| 12 | Ram Bazaar | 4228 | 0.04 | 105700 |
| 13 | Mall Road | 4975 | 0.29 | 17155 |
| 14 | Jakhu | 3292 | 0.85 | 3872.9 |
| 15 | Benmore | 5156 | 0.78 | 6610.2 |
| 16 | Engine Ghar | 5119 | 0.35 | 14625 |
| 17 | Sanjauli | 5395 | 0.65 | 8300 |
| 18 | Dhalli | 5063 | 2.46 | 2058 |
| 19 | Chamyana | 7040 | 1.23 | 5723.5 |
| 20 | Sangti | 7003 | 1.29 | 5428.6 |
| 21 | Kasumpti | 7425 | 1.0 | 7425 |
| 22 | Chota Shimla | 4492 | 0.50 | 8584 |
| 23 | Patyog | 11418 | 1.91 | 5978 |
| 24 | Khalini | 7249 | 1.07 | 6774.7 |
| 25 | Kanlog | 5172 | 1.16 | 4458.6 |

Total Population:-1,42,555
Total Area:- 28.53 Sq. KM
Average Density of Population :-    4,996.6

On the basis of variations in density values, four types of density zones have been identified:-

1. Areas of very high density (Above 12000 per Sq. KM)
2. Areas of High Density (6000-12000 persons per Sq. KM)
3. Areas of Low Density ( 2000-5999 persons per Sq. KM)
4. Areas of Very Low Density (Below  2000 persons per Sq.KM)

**Areas of very High Density (Above 12,000 persons per Sq. KM)**

The areas of very high density of population in Shimla in 2001 were ward nos. 11,12, 13 and 16. These wards are Krishna Nagar, Ram Bazaar, Mall

and Engine Ghar. With the exception of Engine Ghar, the other wards form the core of the city and occupy central position in the city. Ward Nos. 11, 12 & 13 cover the Mall Road, Lower Bazaar, Middle Bazaar, Sabji Mandi, purusharthi Basti Colony, Ganj Bazaar,

Anaj Mandi, Ram Bazaar and Krishna Nagar, area along the Cart Road. These parts of the city have always been densely populated and had high density of population in 1971 also. These areas hold central position and are important commercial centres.

**Map 1.1**: **Density of Population, 2001**
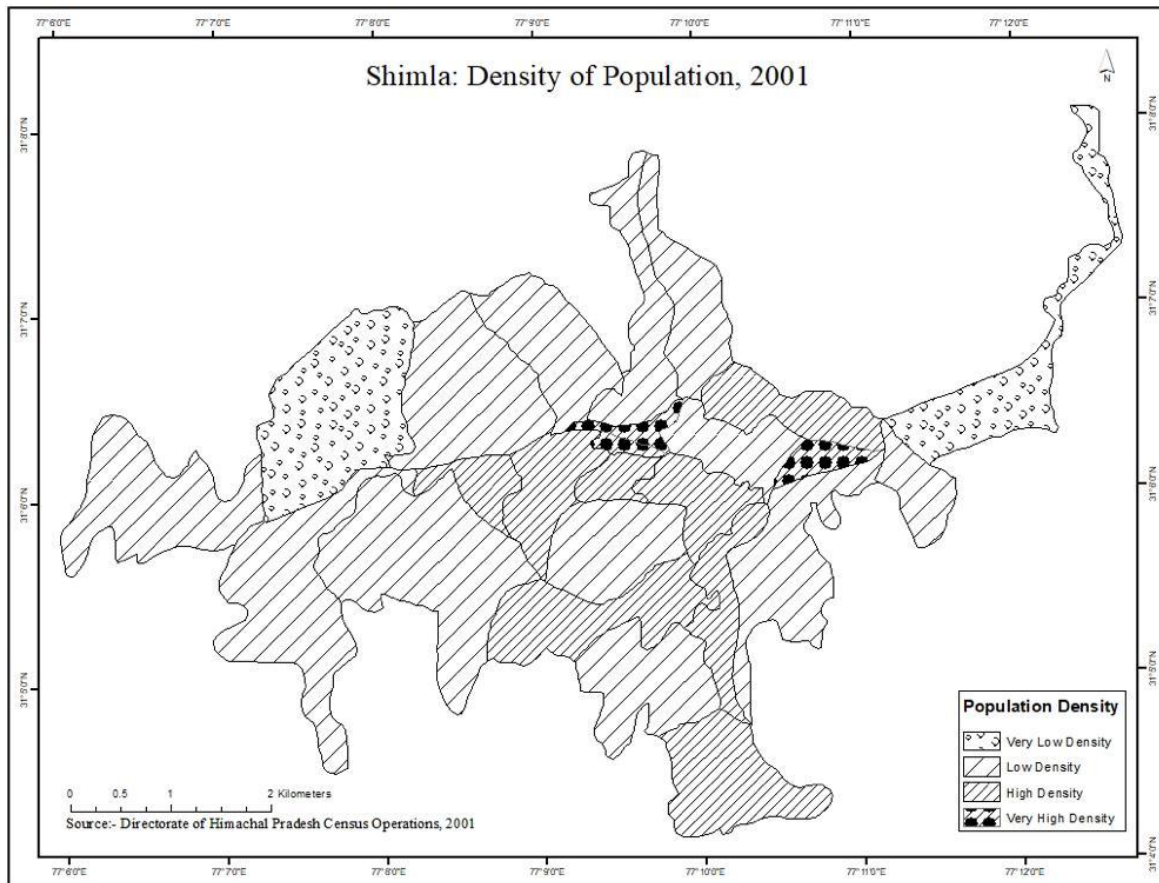


In fact, this particular area act as the CBD of Shimla city and its adjoining areas. These areas are marked by congested localities. Wall to wall touching 2-3 or even 5 storeyed old buildings, many of them in a poor dilapidated condition. Narrow streets, open sewerage system and Improper Sanitation. These are the areas which have been inhabited by the natives especially traders since the British times.

These so called Bazaar Ward areas resided by the natives on account of easy investment due to low land prices over the time became high priced localities as are important trading centres, market areas and easily accessible. These also are heavily residential in character. These serve the dual purpose of residential cum commercial centres. These have become highly priced areas and affordable to only high income groups or people already living here. However, one thing which is noticeable is that commercially shops or land is in demand for economic activities but residential demand is very less. In fact, some of the people residing here since earlier time have moved to other areas and we can see the old wooden houses/buildings lying vacant with only the ground floors having shops functional and occupied. But many families are residing here which

itself speaks of the high density of population. Krishna Nagar along the Cart Road is yet another heavily populated area. This is mainly resided by the low income group population. The population in these areas is both economically and socially backward and this is the main cause of high density of population. Poor planning of the area & haphazard construction with open drains, poor sewerage & sanitation system make it an area of extremely bad living condition. Most of the buildings give a dirty appearance have not been repaired or even painted since long. It almost resembles a slum with highly populated urban residential area, closely packed houses, decrepit housing units inhabited mainly by people who are economically backward.

Though, the core area is full of congestion and much unorganised and unsystematically developed, this area boasts of having Mall, the prime recreational centre, many institutions of high repute, hotels and maximum developmental activities have their imprints on this part of the town. This is considered to be main Shimla. Besides these areas, Engine Ghar which is not a part of the core has grown as another very high density area over the period of time. This was on the account of availability of land

# Innovation The Research Concept

and that too at affordable prices. In Shimla, like all the hill towns availability of land or a good location for building home or other purposes is less as compared to the plain areas which causes high land values. This area is 1990s had rapid development and attracted many schools, educational institutions and had a well developed market by 2001. Nearness to the core, easy access, nearness to prime educational institutions, health centres attracted people to this part of town and by the years 2000, we could see the area turning into a high density area. This area in 1971 was just a vacant land with trees and shrubs and a few buildings. In fact, the older residents of the town say that they would feel scared to cross the area in the evening. This area in 2001 had become one of the heavily populated areas owing to institutional, residential and commercial development in and around it. Very high density of population in these areas can be attributed to:-

1. The area acted as Central Business District (CBD) and catered to the needs of not only Shimla and adjoining areas but the entire district of Shimla.
2. Sustained commercial and residential inertia.
3. Easily accessible and its nearness to the Main Bus Stand and Railway Station also added to its importance as it made trading of goods easier and convenient.

**Areas of High Density (Between 6000-12000 Persons per Sq. KM)**

Ward Nos. 9, 10, 15, 17, 21, 22 and 24 are the areas having high density of population ranging between six to twelve thousand persons per Sq. KM. these high density areas include Nabha, Phagli, Benmore, Sanjauli, Kasumpti, Chota Shimla and Khalini. These areas adjoin the very high density areas. The high density in these areas is due to their multi-functional character. Also, these areas are well developed areas of Shimla which along with acting as major and heavily populated residential localities, have flourishing market areas, act of service centres and provide various services as educational, institutional, administrative and medical. The land values in these areas is very high in some localities and affordable in others. Nearer is the land or the property to the arterial road greater is the value. Drive in areas and houses have high rental and property value. The farther you are from the arterial road and sub-arterial roads the land values go down. These areas have to be walked by and are not reachable by vehicles due to lack of roads or narrow roads. These areas of inconvenience are generally occupied by the lower middle and low income groups as these are affordable as compared to other areas. Within these high density areas, Nabha, Sanjauli and Chota Shimla have comparatively more population as compared to their counterparts. These high population concentration areas were moving towards becoming congested localities. Nabha and Phagli had high density of population and are purely residential in nature. Nabha is planned government residential colony and is resided by government employees. Nearer to the core, Main Bus Stand, Railway Station, Commercial Centres, Service Centres etc. have been

the reasons for high density of population and expansion of this residential area. Phagli is the downward extension of Nabha. Phagli extends from Nabha till the bye-pass road of Shimla. High density of population was due to the opening up of the bye-pass road which had made this area more accessible and reachable. Low land prices in this area coupled up with availability of land attracted the population to this area. This is an old area of Shimla but the wave of growth and development started here in 1990s and by 2001, this area had a substantial/considerable population. Easy access, open and spacious area for expansion and built up of houses and localities, nearness to the new proposed bus stand and affordable land rates were the reasons of inflow of population to this area.

Benmore is another area resided by the government officials, politicians and other elite of the town. This is a posh locality resided by the cream of the town. Nearness to the core and high land values have attracted high income groups and higher middle income groups to the area. The area was more open and planned with respect to the residential expansion.

Chota Shimla and Sanjauli had high density of population as compared to the other areas in this zone. This was due to superimposition of functions and multifarious activities carried out in these areas. Chota Shimla houses the H.P Secretariat and some other important government offices. It is a major area of the city which is along the Circular Road offering easy access to residents. Besides being a residential area it also caters to the commercial and medical needs of the population. Nearness to the core area and other developed areas of Shimla is yet another cause of high density. This place holds a dominant location with respect to other parts of the city but the residential growth is rather unsystematic with clusters of congested localities.

Sanjauli area is an example of highly unplanned haphazard development. It is one of the busiest areas and important areas of the town. It has a big bazaar which caters to almost everything with about 300 to 400 shops. The houses are unsystematically spread around the area giving it a shabby and congested look. Narrow streets, congested market area with the main Sanjauli road honking with traffic are the main characteristics revealing its nature. However, we find that people from all strata of society have settled here and the land prices and rentals are quite high in this area. Proximity to the city's most reputed schools and colleges, IGMC hospital , the Mall, H.P Secretariat and many other institutions and offices and good transport connectivity are the major positive points that have attracted population. Area near the Sanjauli Chowk, Laxmi Narayan Temple on the Mandir road and areas along the market have a high concentration of population.

Kasumpti and Khalini are also heavily populated parts of Shimla. Khalini is mainly residential with some planned government colonies. Some schools and offices in its close vicinity have attracted population here. Kasumpti boasts of its multifunctional character. This was earlier a part of Shimla rural and

became a part of Shimla Municipal Corporation in 2001. The high residential expansion and congested market with narrow streets causing traffic bottlenecks, wall to wall unplanned housing with 4 to 5 storey buildings are its major features. The area gained importance mainly after the government and semi-government offices in Shimla were transferred to this area. This gave the inertia of government and led to many other commercial activities which attracted population to reside in these areas. This is one of the most congested areas of Shimla city. To sum up, the areas of high density of population:-

1. Either adjoin the core or near to the core.
2. Spill over effect of the core.
3. Are easily accessible with a good transport network.
4. Residential expansion is more in these areas owing to their multi-functional character.
5. Nearer is the locality to the arterial and sub-arterial roads higher is the density of population and land values.
6. Advantages of site.

**Areas of Low Density (Between 2000-5999 persons per Sq. KM)**

Ward Nos. 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,14,17,20,22 and 25 are the areas having low density of population. The areas that fall in this low density zone are Bharari, Ruldu Bhatta, Kaithu, Annadale, Tutu, Boileuganj, Tutikandi, Jakhu, Sangti, Chamyana, Patyog and Kanlog. The low density of population in these areas can be attributed to some factors. Disjunct location from the core, poor access, poor means of public transport, undeveloped area with lack of roads and markets even providing the basic things. Peripheral location and at distant location from the schools, colleges, offices, commercial, recreational and religious centres. Some of these areas are heavily forested or vacant lands which deters the population to stay in these isolated and insecure areas. Areas like Jakhu, which is very near to the centre of the city is marked by very less population on the account of thick forests, money menace, isolation and lack of security, green belt area which gives less scope for expansion. It is also called the cold zone of Shimla. Similarly, Bharari and Ruldu Bhatta are also less populated with unsystematic unplanned clustered settlements. Here we see that there are clusters of population residing in an area having vast gaps due to the forests. Also poor connectivity is one more hinderance. Some areas do not even have ambulance roads and are very far off from the main road which poses a great difficulty for the local people to commute to their workplace or other areas.

Tutu, Kaithu, Annadale, Boileuganj, Tutikandi have less population due to their peripheral location. These areas are far from the core. Low land values and open spacious areas have not been able to attract much population. Though, in the coming years, it is expected that these areas will see expansion as there is little scope for horizontal expansion in the hill town. So naturally these less habited areas will attract population and development.

Chamyana, Patlog, Kanlog, Sangti, these were all part of Shimla rural and have been added to

the Shimla Municipal Corporation in 2001. These were basically village areas boasting of large areas, open spaces, vacant lands and fields and are now part of Shimla Municipal Corporation. Clean environment and large area for expansion have started attracting the population. Affordable land prices are also an important factor. These are the new areas and will gradually gain importance when the developmental activities will be shifted here and infrastructure and good facilities and amenities will be available. Peripheral location and recent inclusion in Municipal Corporation are the main reasons for low density. Therefore, we can sum up the reasons for low density of population:-

1. Peripheral or disjunct location from the core.
2. Isolated areas.
3. Insecure surroundings.
4. Areas added recently to the Municipal Corporation lack infrastructural development.
5. Poor road network and transportation.
6. Greater distance between the residences and work place.

**Areas of very Low Density (Below 2000 persons per Sq. KM)**

Ward No. 5 and 18 i.e. Summerhill and Dhalli were the two areas in Shimla city having very low population density. Open spacious houses, wide roads, bigger plots, with low land prices have not been able to attract population. The peripheral location from the core is the only reason for this very low density of population. Summerhill holds the importance of housing the H.P. University and has important institutions of high repute in its vicinity. However, we find clusters of settlement around the university area and market area. Owing to the large size and small population, the area showing very low population density. Dhalli also has very low density of population due to larger area. This area has been included in Shimla Municipal Corporation in 2001. The area near the Cemetery Road Tunnel is thickly populated. It can be said to be an extension of Sanjauli area with population living close to the tunnel and the main road. As we go farther from here, the density decreases. This has pockets of congested localities with overall sparse population. In the future, this area will find a rapid expansion as it is in close association of the high density Sanjauli Cemetery area.

Disjunct location from the core and disadvantages of site are main reasons for very low density of population. Non-residential nature with more space allotted to other landuses is another reason for very low density. Inconvenience, lack of access, location of all major social, economic and other institutions in the core and adjoining areas are other reasons for very low density.

**Conclusion & Imperatives**

Shimla is growing and overflowing. Shimla is the hub of State, National and International activities. It has a multi-functional strong character which is acting as a major pull for the population. The natural growth and floating population are both putting a lot of pressure on the city and its infrastructure. Unplanned and unauthorised construction in the fragile

environment is pressurising the Earth and resources. In order to combat the problem there has to be a check on increasing migration to Shimla. Growth centres and urban areas outside the immediate city should be developed to divert the flow of population. Residential area constitutes a larger share in the landuse plan and accommodates the population of an area. Shimla and its environment is being preferred and prestigious location for living and the number of households has been increasing year by year. The main housing areas are the core of the city and adjoining areas. Most of the housing areas in the form of developed colonies are on the slopes. The southern slopes and spurs are thickly built up as compared to the northern windward and cold slopes. The population is increasing and so are its requirements. A countermagnet is required to be planned and developed in the populous belt, at a strategic location to divert the attention of potential migrants as well as natives who wish to move to more open spaces and environment.

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