

Impact of Urbanisation on Sustainable Rural Development in Eastern Uttar Pradesh: A Sociological Study

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ABSTRACT

The rural living is not very different from urban living and with the universal availability of radio, T.V., newspapers and automobiles; both rural and urban settlements have become a continuum rather than a dichotomy. Mainly rural activities are accommodated in villages and agricultural land connected with primary and secondary occupations, while urban activities are accommodated in shop, workshop, offices, warehouses and public buildings, respectively. The positive and negative impact of urbanisations on the surrounding country side is usually described in economic, social and cultural terms, but sometimes also in terms of agricultural development. This is a fact that India is rich in natural resources. Natural resources mean any product, thing or circumstances found by man in his natural environment that might in some way utilise for his own benefit. Utilisation of domestically available natural resources constitutes the bedrock of rural development. The quantity and quality of available natural resources along with the intensity and efficiency of their use determine to a considerable extent the level and pace of rural development. It may be stated that lack of utilization of natural resources lead to low level of rural development. Further, infrastructure facilities like roads, electricity, transport, financial and credit facilities, water resources, markets, etc. from the core of rural infrastructure while provide vital sources for the agricultural and industrial development in the rural areas. The findings of the study reflect that urbanisation has not only effect to towns but has also an effect on rural area. Urbanisation has close connection with rural/ regional development in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India. This paper is an attempt to demonstrate the relationship between urbanisation and sustainable rural development in sociological perspective.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to

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meet their own needs. It contains two key concepts:

- the concept of **needs**, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- the idea of **limitations** imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

Rural development is a comprehensive and multidimensional concept that encompasses the overall development of rural areas with a view to improving the quality of life of rural people. There is, however, no universally acceptable definition of rural development. It is a multi-level, multidisciplinary, and multidimensional concept that includes economic, social, and cultural development.

The livelihoods and wellbeing of the poor in rural Asia are already vulnerable to climate variability because of a high dependency on natural resources and high exposure to climate impact and hazards such as floods, droughts, landslides, famines, and epidemics. In the absence of significant mitigation and adaptation measures, human-induced climate change is expected to multiply these risks and undermine development goals (World Bank 2010).

Urbanization is in close connection with regional development. Regional development includes connection and development of the whole country, different regions of the country and each settlement from the natural resources, population, production, and infrastructural conditions of view. In this concept regional partnership is also crucial (Lacko, 1988). According to other authors the regional development shows other important criteria. According to Farago (1992) every region has its special and specific features.

Development and growth are not the same. Development means changing with values while growth shows changing of the rates (Nageswari, 1988). In this way growth is not necessarily accompanied with development. Additionally there are a lot of values in development, which are influenced by recent economical, political, ideological relations. For example in case of developing countries we can often experience fast economical growth (new airport-building, project, shopping project, shopping centre investment etc.) while the important part of the society is out of these developments. This is the growth without development.

Sustainable development in general does not restrict satisfaction of future needs. This is a fundamental principle. It is known that growth-orientated economical and social processes restrict the emergence of this principle. On several points it is incompatible with sustainable development. Urbanization is one part of this problem. Proportion of the population of rural urban areas is changed. Consequently, this situation created several social, environmental and

economical conflicts. Urbanization direction will not be maintained neither in developed nor in developing countries like India and Eastern Uttar Pradesh in particular.

Urbanization is a special periodical development. Periods are not divided from each other distinctly. Transitions and overlaps are also natural during this process. Enyedi (1988) divided this process into the following periods.

- Urban-explosion
- Relative deconcentration
- Dezurbanization
- Urbanization of informatics
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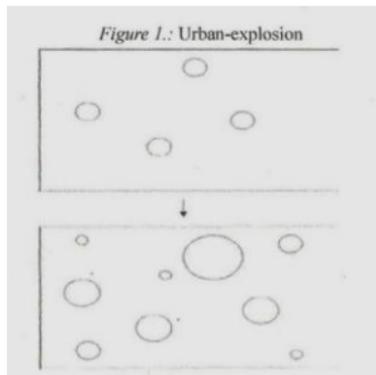
MATERIAL AND METHOD

Many studies in connection with regional development, rural areas and urbanization have been surveyed. Systemization of this knowledge has been crucial. Phrasing of the rural regional position in urbanization was the purpose. On the base of this the situation of the rural areas connection with urbanization has been conceptualized.

FINDINGS

Urbanization and Rural Development

Labor force is significantly concentrated with spatial expansion of industrial production and the development of industry. This is the specialty of urban-explosion. Population of towns and non-civic settlement are increasing. This urbanization period lasted for a long time in the most developed industrial countries. The phenomenon began in the 17th century and lasted for centuries. This situation was accompanied with technical improvement. The outcome of this development was that lots of agricultural laborer became hard workers. Some people removed from rural region to towns, or to its suburb. Therefore the demographical situation of the rural areas was changed (Figure 1.)



In the urban-explosion period in Uttar Pradesh between the years 1980-2005 demonstrate the explosion situation. Lucknow & Varanasi in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India were the quickest-growing towns at that time (Growing rate was 6% per year).

There is not the same urban-explosion situation can be experienced in other part of Eastern U.P. The funds of the urban-explosion are close connection with industrial development in developed countries. In these countries people who removed from rural areas to towns has been changed their livelihood and their demographical, behavioural habitude. On the contrary this situation the urban-explosion has been started later in the developing areas than in the developed ones. Urban-explosion is close connection with over-population of rural areas in developing areas. Here the rate of industrial development has been very slow: the towns cannot support people who removed from rural areas to towns. As a result, unemployment rate increases and the bigger part of the urban society has no chance to disentangle from poverty. In these countries people who removed from rural areas to towns do not change their demographical and behavioural habitude.

Chart 1: Urban-explosion situation in developed and developing areas.

<i>Urban-explosion</i>	Developed areas	Developing areas
Beginning	early-capitalism (19 th century)	mainly 20 th century
population increasing	Slow	Quick
base of the process	Industrial development of towns	Over-population of rural areas
Advantage from the urban life-style	considerable: livelihood, all kind of service	inconsiderable: unemployment, poverty

Considering either in the developed or in the developing regions the urban-explosion made the migration of rural people. As a result of industrial development of towns and over-population of rural areas, rural people change their residence (Chart 1). The young and ambitious part of the rural society moved to towns. The consequence is loss of value of rural society.

During the period of relative de-concentration the increasing of the urban population slow down. One hand de-concentration means that rural population move not only to the towns, but urban settlements. On the other hand de-concentration means that one part of the urban population moves out form towns to suburb or to urban settlements. The de-concentration is a relative process because only the population of the administratively circumscribed towns increase, but the suburb and

urban settlements, so functional connection of the town is clearly gains. In this period the economical and social function of villages have been changing. There is lots of livelihood alternatives can be found in rural areas: livelihood in industry, livelihood in tourism etc (Figure 2.)

Originally the settlements are special units of workplace and inhabitation. In the relative deconcentration period the function of workplace and dwelling has changed in case of several settlements. In case of those villages that lie nearby the towns more important dwelling-function and workplace-function can be experienced. Workplace can be fund mostly in towns.

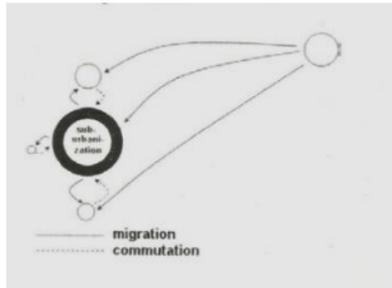
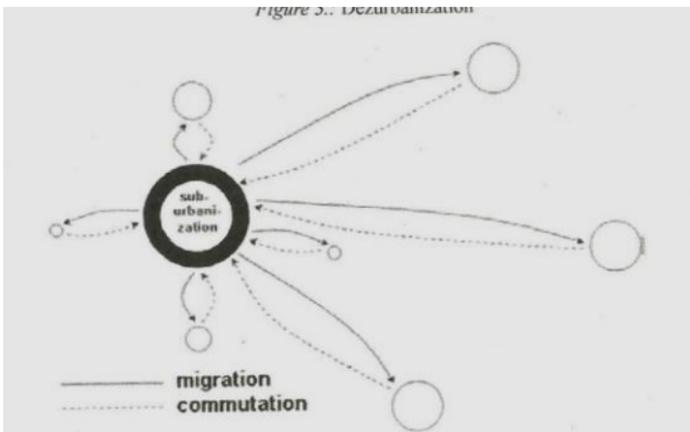


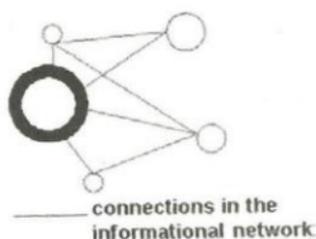
Figure 2 Relative Deconcentration

Dezurbanization means that rural areas become centre of regional development. Close and extended relationship came off between town land its countryside. In the rural areas work and leisure opportunities reevaluates. In this period the perspective of rural settlement is essentially determined by geographical traffic given (Figure 3).



In urbanization of informatics period the high-tech informatics is generally spreading. One of the most important parts of this process in the deconcentration. Several new rural centres start developing. Further feature is that in this period the position of each settlement or area is not determined absolutely by geographical and vehicular status. The basis of these developments is the relationship between settlements, areas and informational network. As a result of this we can experience a special informational band. Mechanism of the informational band depends on the social, economical technical development of certain area. The informational band means not only using new informational channels but it means active participation in the creation of the informational network (Figure 4).

Figure 4.: Urbanization of informatics



Urbanization and Sustainable Rural Development

Several sign shows that some periods of urbanization process could not be the part of sustainable development. As a result of urban-explosion in big cities some social, economical, environmental problems (slums noise, overcrowding) can be experienced. This is not only the problem of developed countries but of developing countries, too. The managing of this problem is one of the most important challenges of mankind.

The unsustainable phenomenon does not prevail in towns only today. During the process of the urbanization the rural areas lose their population. Actually the migration is selective: mainly the ambitious, young population leaves their home. Result of this process is a misshaped rural population and an unviable economy.

Neither big cities nor rural areas will be capable to solve their urbanization problems alone. In general opinion the success of the sustainable rural development in urbanization process depends on the relationship between towns and their rural territory. The most important connection is communication by several informational tools along with direct physical contact. This is an essential condition of the regional co-operation. Theoretically, the informational network is able to eliminate the geographical, vehicular disadvantage of rural areas. In this situation the development of towns and rural areas could become well balance: regional development will be sustainable. This positive

theory works only in locale dimension. We cannot experiment this situation in global way. The chance that the urbanization connects to sustainable development depends on universal and local factors. It is fact that there are lots of general feature in the urbanization which are experienced everywhere; but the reason for this that the urbanization has got some areas specific markers in a certain region. One of these factors is the economical and social structure of Socialism. As a result of this structure, urbanization process in the decades of state socialism was a bit different from western trends.

Generally the parallelism with the western trends industrialized the towns and on the other hand declined the agricultural countryside. The agricultural sector has been fallen and the contribution to the gross national product of the agricultural sector has been measurably decreased. It was unfavourable for rural areas. Historical development had been disrupted by the centralized organization of the state socialism that originally based on town-supported principle. The poetics came up with negative discrimination of the countryside authorized by heavy industrial structure policy and through the centralized state organization instead of maintain a healthy town-countryside relationship. The managing of this problem is one of the most important challenges of regional development.

CONCLUSION

Urbanization is deeply concerned with regional development. Sustainable development is one of the most important types of regional development trend. Lots of sign shows that certain parts of urbanization process could not be part of sustainable development. Success of sustainable development in urbanization process depends on the relationship between towns and their rural territory (Within villages).

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