



Spatial and Temporal Heterogeneity in Rurality and Urbanity in, North Karnataka

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DOI- 10.5281/zenodo.7828016

Abstract

Urban-rural distinctions are particularly challenging in the context of fast growing cities in the developing world. Through an example of the Indian city of North Karnataka, we demonstrate the case for development of more continuous approaches of urban representation that is needed in many parts of the world. Thus even some of the oldest areas in North Karnataka, which have been part of an Political Division centre for centuries, exhibit aspects of rurality, as much as other recently developing peri-urban parts of the city. We demonstrate the considerable heterogeneities in urbanity and rurality that exist in North Karnataka, which constitutes complex mosaics of rural and urban systems. In contexts such as these, binary representations of the urban rural dichotomy break down, as does the gradient approach to urbanity. There does not appear to be any obvious relationship between the time span for which a site has been urbanized, and the degree to which rurality still maintains its influence on these fluid urban landscapes. New theories and methods are needed to fully represent the spatial and temporal heterogeneity of rurality and urbanity in these fluid landscapes, moving beyond traditional, discretized urban *vs.* rural classifications, as well as relatively simplistic gradient-based urban to rural analyses.

Keywords: rurality; urban city; urban-rural gradient; urban history

Introduction

The term hierarchy denotes a body classified in successfully subordinate grades. Human settlements vary in function and size and may be classified into successive grades ranging from a small hamlet to a megalopolis. Every settlement performs certain functions which are manifested through the activities of its residents. While rural settlements generally perform primary functions, urban settlements are expected to perform secondary and tertiary functions. These functions include productive, distributive, social and religious activities. Every place rural or urban measures a focus located at the confluence of routes and traffic flows by means of which it associates with the surrounding country. A central place may be defined as focus of manifold human activities serving a surrounding area. The status of central place is evaluated as a measure of its centralization or nodality. Enclosed relationship and interaction with their environment. The major aspects of the discussion and analysis in this part of the

study include the following. With as much as half of the increase in urban land in the next two decades projected to take place here. India plays a particularly critical role in this regard, with an urban population that is poised to double between now and 2030, and a massive 2.5 fold increase in built area in the largest 100 Indian cities observed over the past two decades. Urban-rural distinctions are particularly challenging to make or to defend in the context of fast growing cities in the developing world. There are often substantial differences between areas that are administratively defined as urban, with formal urban governance structures, and areas of actual urban cover, dominated by built environments. This is especially obvious in peri-urban areas, but not only confined to these areas. Thus, for instance, urban expansion in many parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America often follows a characteristic pattern wherein the city engulfs indigenous, formerly rural villages. These villages continue to exist within the city,

Where it is then common to find

complex mosaics of high rise apartments with software engineers next to rural huts with livestock. The dichotomous approach of the urban *vs.* rural classification breaks down in such contexts. Some fields of research, such as landscape ecology, have attempted to move beyond the rural-urban dichotomy, focusing instead on the description and analyses of patterns and processes along an urban-rural gradient. This approach views urbanity (and its converse, rurality) as being spatially distributed along gradients such that areas of greatest urbanity are within the city centre, or in the oldest settled parts (typically the city centre), while the more recent peri-urban, rapidly urbanizing city periphery has the greatest rurality. Yet such approaches assume that gradients exist along specific unique axes, while urban social-ecological gradients are frequently composed of multiple incongruent and contrasting variables. Thus urban-rural gradient analysis, while representing advancement over dichotomous conceptualization of the urban-rural divide, may not adequately capture the heterogeneities of urbanity and rurality within many cities, in particular in Asia, Africa and Latin America, where pockets of rurality intermingle with high rise urban settlements.

2. Study Area

North Karnataka, one of India's fastest growing cities, is located in a fertile agricultural catchment. The city extends to include a number of villages that have a history extending over several centuries. In recent decades, economic growth and concomitant urbanization has led increased sprawl, with a more than ten-fold increase in urban extent since 1949.

Human settlement is an evolutionary process, having led a nomadic life in the initial stage by hunting and food gathering. Settlement of people in modern society is viewed from rural and urban perspective. Various studies have been conducted on human settlements by anthropologists, sociologists, ethnographers, economists and geographers. Their approaches differ in terms of the objectives and methodology. Here the analysis of the evolution of settlement is focused on rural settlement with a geographical perspective. The major aspects covered in the analysis in this part of

the study include the following.

3. Rural Settlement

Man's settlement has been an evolutionary process. Initially he led a nomadic life of hunting and food gathering. The sedentary agriculturist life of man coincided with the Neolithic period when he started to live in his own house more or less permanently. Development of settlements of people by constructing houses became inevitable to protect themselves from the vagaries of climate and weather conditions and to enjoy social life. The settlement of man had to adapt to the physical and socio-economic environment. Settlement of people in modern society is viewed from rural and urban perspective. The issue is probed by anthropologists, sociologists, ethnographers, economists and geographers. However, their approach differs in terms of objectives and methodologies. Most people of the world live a collective life and reside in some form of settlement – a permanent group of houses, buildings and habitation. Settlements of people occupy a very small percentage of the earth's surface. However, it exerts a greater influence on the world's culture. Settlements are the centres of the world's cultural heritage. They happen to be the point of origin for the dissemination of innovative, economic, social and political pattern. The study of settlement has become the most basic to human geography because of the cultural factors. Settlement reflects man's relationship with his natural and socio-economic environment in any particular region. As the changes of influencing factors of settlements such as geographical, cultural, political, sociological and economic factors, the settlements system and pattern in the world as well as in India, relatively vary from one region to another. In Asian countries compact type with rectangular pattern of settlements dominates, but in African countries semi-sprinkled type with linear pattern of settlement dominates.

4. Selection Of The Problem And Its Relevance

India is still largely a rural country where nearly 65 to 70 percent of the total population is living in rural areas. The rural settlements have been facing a large number of problems with poverty, unemployment, etc. There are many rural settlements in all parts of the country which do not have minimum infrastructural facilities. There has also been

a wide spatial variation in pattern of rural settlements, their hierarchy and social facilities aspects. The study of these aspects seems to be significant in view of their integrated development. The spatial pattern hierarchy and social facilities aspects of rural settlements helps the planners, government and other agencies in taking the decisions and to prepare a plan for the overall development of the rural settlements. Hence the researcher has chosen the present problem.

5. Data Base And Methodology

The data which is being utilized throughout the work of this thesis has been collected from various sources. The primary information was collected through personal interview with the rural People in various villages of North Karnataka. For this purpose field work was undertaken a number of times in the study area at different times. The secondary data was collected from various Government and Semi-Government departments such as State Statistical Office, Public Works Department, Education Department and Health Department. Other important data sources are the District Census Hand Book of various years, Karnataka at a Glance of various years, District Gazetteer, Economic and Market Intelligence, Periodicals, Daily Newspapers, etc. The base map of the district was prepared with the help of the Surveyor General of India map, other map concerned with North Karnataka districts were collected from the Directorate of Land Records and Survey Settlements, Bangalore, Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Bangalore. To find out the spatial pattern of settlements and spacing of settlements, Nearest Neighbour Technology Has been utilized. The data/information collected in the field/study area has been analysed with the help of statistical methods such as Rank-Size Rule, Nearest Neighbour Analysis and other Mathematical Methods. Data has also been analysed with the help of statistical diagrams, chart, Graphs and computer generated maps. Though the work depends largely on secondary data it is also supplemented by the information collected through field observation.

6. Urban Settlements

Spacing of settlements fundamentally depends on factors such as fertility of land, productivity of agriculture, natural crops,

other agronomic characteristics, distribution and availability of water, density of urban population, mode of living, history and stages of land occupancy, relative strengths of tribal population and several factors. According to Dongles, the spacing of rural settlements depends on three factors e.g. (a) the agricultural prosperity, (b) surface relief of the land and (c) historical perspectives of the area.

Conclusion

Our study incorporates a partial examination of specific indicators of rurality. Thus, we recognize that choosing a different set of indicators may have led to different results. Our intent, however, was not to identify a specific gradient of rurality, or to argue that this provides the only way to map rurality. Rather, our goal was to illustrate the lack of coherence between binary representations of the urban rural dichotomy, and the lack of application of the gradient approach to urbanity that has been propounded by fields such as landscape ecology, as an alternative to such dichotomization. Instead, we seek to demonstrate the heterogeneity in patterns of rurality and urbanity within Bangalore, a heterogeneity that does not neatly conform to single variables such as the time period of urbanization, or to the distance from the city centre, a limitation pointed out by other scholars Physiographic, climatic, soil types, cultural, political and economic conditions are not the same throughout the world. Due to the variations in these factors, we can find out the different type of Settlements in different parts of the world. When compared to North American countries Asian countries are predominating with compact type of settlements. Semi sprinkled types of settlements existed in South America, Africa and in Australian countries. Compared to other settlements, rural settlement tends to be calmer, quieter and less stressful. The people living in the rural area

All over the world are mainly engaged in agricultural activities.

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