

Role of Urbanization in Rural Development - A Geographical Study of Meerut District

Abstract

The measurement of level of urbanization simply involves the assessment of the percentage of urban population in cities and towns of a specified criterion. It is a process by which village turn into towns and towns develop into cities. It's represents a revolutionary change in the whole pattern of social life. It's create an influence area and provide urban facilities of the people. Socio-economic facilities create a platform for the rural development which are provided by the cities. Transportation and communication facilities play an important role in the development of rural area and created a platform for nucleus of a town.

Keywords: Urbanization, Service Centers, Rural, Urban, Development, Cities and Town, Migration.

Introduction

The area, in which the region and the city are culturally, economically and politically inter-related, forms an umland of that particulars town or city. The area peripheral to the focal point and that serves the urban center that is the focal point or is served by it, goes by a variety names. The support of a city depends upon the services it performs not for itself, but for a tributary areas. Urban areas are economically, socially, culturally and in most of the cases, administratively inter related with the region encompassing it. The inter-relationships between cities and their regions are of two types. A city acts as a collection centre for the commodities produced in the region, besides functioning as a distribution centre for the goods manufactured in the city or in other cities. Thus a city generally performs collection and distribution functions.

Urbanization represents a revolutionary change in the whole pattern of social life. It is itself a product of basic economy and technological developments it tends in turn, once it comes into being, to affect every aspect of existence. It is the process by which villages turn into towns and towns develop into cities. Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by pre-dominantly urban culture. Majority of people move to cities and towns because they view rural areas as places with hardships and backward lifestyle. Therefore, as population move to more developed areas the immediate outcome is urbanization.

Urbanization affects rural areas and generate facilities to their surroundings areas. Social and economic facilities tempt to the rural population. It provide better service to the people and job opportunities to rural population. Transportation facilities play an important role in the development of rural areas. It is a conjecture of between the rural and urban areas. Cities/towns, provide medical, educational facilities to the rural area through the transportation. The relationship between a city and its region, through looks simple is complex when the purpose is to quantify it. A city performs several functions for the region and consequently diverse types of linkages are established between the city and its region.

Aims of The Study

1. To find out the impact of urban facilities on rural areas.
2. To find out the components which is essential to development in the rural areas.
3. To find out the level of socio-economic development in rural and urban areas.

Hypothesis

1. Urban facilities provide a base of development for rural areas.



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2. Growth rate of urbanization in the study area depends on the rural urban migration.

Data Base and Methodology

Both types of data has been used to complete the study. Primary data has been collected from the study area by using the sample survey method. Secondary data has been collected from the related offices, departments, records and reports. Statistical methods have been used to find out the result.

Review of Literature

Before embarking on to the study of any area of interest it is essential to look into the pertinent work previously done on it. Since it gives a fabulous insight about the topic and gives way to mend away the lacunae lift in the process of exploration of the research study. It helps in finding out the new horizons of our field of research. Many research work has been done in India on different aspects on 'urbanization' and its role in rural development. Here an attempt is made to review the available literature on the topic concerning 'Role of urbanization in rural development'.

Burth, F. Hoselitz (1962)¹ in his article "The Role of Urbanization in Economic Development; Some International Comparisons" summarises the significant differences between European Urbanization and Indian Urbanization. Amitabh Kundu (1994)² published an article on "Pattern of Urbanization with special reference to small and medium towns in India", According to him, urban growth across the size categories presents some interesting features. Darshini Mahadavia (2001)³ in her paper entitled "Sustainable Urban Development in India: An Inclusive Perspective", said that the mainstream debate on urban development looks either at urban development or sustainable cities, and tends to miss out on people-centered approaches to development. Amitabh Kundu (2003)⁴ published an article, "Impact of Neo-Liberal Paradigm on Urban Dynamics in India", According to him, there has been change in the pattern of urban growth. G.V. Joshi and Norbert Lobo (2003)⁵ in their book "Rural Urban Migration and Rural Unemployment in India", studied that human beings migrate because they are living beings with experiences and aspirations. Shiva Rama Krishnan and B.N. Singh (2004)⁶ in their study "Urbanization" said that migration is not the principal or dominant factor in urban growth. Pranati Datta (2006)⁷ in his article "Urbanization in India", analyses urbanization as an Index of transformation from traditional rural economies to modern industrial one.

R.B. Bhagat and Soumya Mohanty (2009)⁸ presented a paper on the title "Emerging Pattern of Urbanization and the Contribution of Migration in Urban Growth in India", he examined that as India has embarked upon economic reforms during the 1990s.

Study Area

Meerut district has been selected to complete the study. It is situated between the Hindan-Ganga Doab. Meerut district lies between 28°7' to 29°02' north latitude and 77°40' to 77°45' east longitude in the Indo-Gangetic plains of India. It has covered 2522 km² geographical area. It is bound on the north by Muzaffarnagar district in the south by Bulandshahar district while Ghaziabad and Baghpat districts from the southern and western limits. The river Ganga forms the eastern boundary and separates district from Amroha district and Bijnor district. The Hindon forms the western boundary and separates the district from Baghpat. Its ground is not rocky and have no mountains. The soil is composed of Pleistocene and sub-recent alluvial sediments transported and deposited by river action from the Himalayan region. Land is very fertile for growing crops, especially wheat, sugarcane and vegetables. Irrigation facilities are in better condition in the study area which are essential for agricultural development.

Meerut is the second largest city in the National Capital Region. It has 3 Tehsills, 12 Blocks, 92 Nyay Panchayats and 667 Villages. According to census of 2011 it has a population of 34.43 Lakh. The district has a population density of 1346 inhabitants per square kilometer. It has a sex ratio 886 females for every 1000 males. It has a literacy of 72.64% higher than the state average of 69.72%. It has 51.07% urban population and 48.93% rural population. It is an educational hub of Western Uttar Pradesh.

Urbanization in the Study Area

Meerut is a historical place in the Western Uttar Pradesh. It's growing very fast and its created a large rural urban fringe. It has a large number of facilities to development. These facilities play an important role in urbanization. Urbanization is a cyclical process through which nations pass as they evolve from agrarian to industrial societies. It is the process by which villages turn into town and towns develop into cities. The measurement of level of urbanization simply involves the assessment of the percentage of urban population in cities and towns of a specified criterion. Trends of urbanization of the study area is given below—

Table-1
Trends of Urbanization in Meerut District from 1951-2011

Year	Total Population	Rural Population	%	Urban Population	%
1951	1540065	1040389	67.56%	499676	32.44%
1961	1819523	1260729	69.29%	558794	30.71%
1971	2207877	1390971	63.00%	816906	37.00%
1981	2767246	1903280	68.78%	863966	31.22%
1991	2397099	1308623	54.68%	1088476	45.32%
2001	2973877	1521894	51.18%	1451983	48.82%
2011	3443689	1684507	48.92%	1759182	51.08%

Source: Computed by the author on the basis of census 1951-2011.

According to above table the rate of urbanization was 32.44% in 1951, 30.71% in 1961, 37% in 1971, 31.22% in 1981 45.32% in 1991, 48.82% in 2001 and now, it is 51.08% in 2011. During in this period the growth of urbanization is 18.64% in the study area. Urban population has changed rapidly in the study area in the period of 1991-2011. It has crossed 50% ratio of population.

Influence Area of Cities/Towns in District Meerut

For a proper understanding or a city's social and economic character it is essential to study the city's regional relationships as manifested by several links that exist between the city and its region. Though urban geographers are agreed on the existence of social, cultural economic and administrative links, the terminology used by them to identify the area or region of linkages differs markedly. Some call it 'Hinterland' and others 'Umland' perhaps after the

German Geographers. Yet to some other it is the 'Metropolitan Region' or area of 'Metropolitan Dominance and Metropolitan Association'. The terms 'Urban Field', 'Tributary Area', 'Sphere of Influence', 'Catchment area and City Region' are also used of course all these terms refers to the area served by a city which is economically, socially, culturally and administratively linked to it.

Meerut city have a large scale influence area. All blocks and villages get services from the city but a twenty kilometer peripheral area mostly affected from the city. Block Daurala, Rajpura, Machhra, Kharkhauda, Janni Khurd, Rasulpur Rohta, Sarurpur, Sardhana and Meerut are mainly affected from the urban facilities. 18 cities/towns are situated in the Meerut district. These cities/towns have their influence area and served the population. These cities/towns are given below–

Table-2
Cities/Towns in the Study Area and their Influence Area (2011)

Sr. No.	City/Town	Urban Population	Influence Area (km ²)	Served Population
1.	Meerut municipal corporation	1305429	43.26	1363657
2.	Meerut Cantt	93312	11.57	108885
3.	Siwalkhas	24882	5.97	32918
4.	Aminagar/Bhurbaral	6141	2.97	10139
5.	Amhera	5485	2.80	9254
6.	Sindhawali	5200	2.73	8875
7.	Mawana	81443	10.80	95980
8.	Kithor	27933	6.33	36453
9.	Hastinapur	26452	6.16	34743
10.	Falawada	19908	5.34	27096
11.	Parikshit Garh	19830	5.33	27004
12.	Bahsuma	11753	4.10	17272
13.	Sardhana	58282	9.14	70584
14.	Lawar	22024	5.62	29589
15.	Daurala	19779	5.32	26940
16.	Karnawal	11663	4.09	17168
17.	Kharkhauda	14364	4.54	20475
18.	Mohiuddinpur	5200	2.73	8875

Source: Computed by the author on the basis of census 2011.

According to the above table Meerut Municipal corporation have a large influence area and a large number of served population. It has 70.07% served population of the total cities/towns. Mawana city has 10.80 km² influence area and served 0.98 Lakh population. The influence area of the Sardhana city is 9.14 km² and have 0.70 Lakh served population. Every city/town is connected with everyone by the transportation facilities. Small towns are the nucleus of the future city.

Impact of Urbanization on Rural Development

Transportations and location play a dominant role in making the impact of Meerut city felt on its fringe area, but there are various other factors as well. The influences of Meerut city on its fringe have been visualized in these factors–

1. Location
2. Transportation
3. Recreational
4. Institutional
5. Medical
6. Urban Living

The villages, which are nearer to Meerut city, exhibit a more urbanized way of life and urban characteristics. The intensive use of land, small farms, high priced land, dense population and almost daily contact with the farmers inter-mediate between that of the city dweller and general farmers. The locational influence of the city has been visualised in the form of–

1. Intensive land use and small land farm,
2. High priced land,
3. Dense population,
4. Non-agricultural workers, and
5. Trend of land use changes.

Due to urbanization in the study area the occupational structure has been changed. Agricultural labour has been decreasing rapidly and adopt non-agricultural works because agriculture sector provides seasonal works to the workers. The impact of urbanization on the workers has been estimated on the occupational structure of the study area. The changing occupational structure has been given in the table–

Table-3
Changing Occupational Structure of Meerut District (1991-2011)

S. No.	Workers	1991			2001			2011		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Farmers	290947 (41.57%)	28217 (8.02%)	319164 (30.34%)	174535 (41.43%)	18753 (6.26%)	193288 (26.81%)	169632 (33.68%)	12135 (3.15%)	181767 (20.45%)
2.	Agricultural Labour	178800 (25.54%)	31063 (8.82%)	209863 (19.95%)	110462 (26.22%)	25188 (8.41%)	135650 (18.82%)	55230 (10.97%)	10256 (2.66%)	65486 (7.37%)
3.	Animal Husbandry	6231 (0.89%)	5391 (1.53%)	11622 (1.10%)	4367 (1.04%)	4840 (1.15%)	9207 (1.28%)	7857 (1.56%)	5467 (1.42%)	13324 (1.50%)
4.	Mining	63 (0.01%)	18 (0.01%)	81 (0.01%)	22 (0.01%)	17 (0.01%)	39 (0.001%)	178 (0.03%)	94 (0.02%)	272 (0.03%)
5.	Household Workers	11804 (1.69%)	17839 (5.06%)	29643 (2.82%)	7071 (1.68%)	16570 (5.53%)	23641 (3.28%)	8663 (1.72%)	27912 (7.25%)	36575 (4.12%)
6.	Non-Household Workers	51112 (7.30%)	68080 (19.34%)	119192 (11.33%)	31971 (7.59%)	60178 (20.08%)	92149 (12.78%)	41047 (8.15%)	79770 (20.72%)	120817 (13.60%)
7.	Construction	8882 (1.27%)	12132 (3.45%)	21014 (2.00%)	6116 (1.45%)	10384 (3.46%)	16500 (2.29%)	9368 (1.86%)	21752 (5.86%)	31813 (3.58%)
8.	Trade & Commerce	22604 (3.23%)	71615 (20.34%)	94219 (8.95%)	19694 (4.67%)	60401 (20.16%)	75045 (10.41%)	31377 (6.23%)	102292 (26.57%)	121210 (13.64%)
9.	Transportation	10728 (1.53%)	21192 (6.02%)	31920 (3.03%)	6301 (1.50%)	18105 (6.04%)	24406 (3.39%)	10929 (2.17%)	36805 (9.56%)	47808 (5.38%)
10.	Others Workers	53841 (7.69%)	88314 (25.08%)	142155 (13.51%)	32137 (7.63%)	78992 (26.36%)	111129 (15.42%)	49558 (9.84%)	109260 (28.38%)	164752 (18.54%)
11.	Total Main Workers	635012 (90.72%)	346861 (97.68%)	978873 (93.05%)	387676 (92.03%)	293428 (97.34%)	681104 (94.48%)	476044 (94.52%)	380138 (98.74%)	864196 (97.25%)
12.	Total Marginal Workers	64968 (9.28%)	8184 (2.32%)	73152 (6.95%)	33561 (7.97%)	6187 (2.66%)	39748 (5.52%)	27600 (5.48%)	4851 (1.26%)	24437 (2.75%)
13.	Total Workers	699980 (100%)	352045 (100%)	1052025 (100%)	921237 (100%)	299615 (100%)	720852 (100%)	503644 (100%)	384989 (100%)	888633 (100%)

Source: Computed by the author on the basis of 1991, 2001 and 2011 census

According to the above table the work has been changed during in this period (1991-2011) in the study area. Farmers have been decreased 7.89% in rural areas, 4.87% in urban areas and 9.89% in district. Agricultural labour has been decreased during in the period of 1991-2011 in the study area. It has been decreased 14.57% in rural areas, 6.16% in urban areas and 12.58% in district. Animal husbandry has provided a number of employment in the both areas. During in this period it has increased 0.67% in rural area, and 0.40% in the district and decreased 0.11% in urban areas. Mining has not provided job opportunities in the study area. It has provided only 0.01% employment in the study area. During in this period (1991-2011) rate of household workers have been increased rapidly in the study area. It has increased 0.03% in rural area, 2.19% in urban area and 1.30% in district level, non-house hold workers 7.30% in rural area, 19.34% in urban area and 11.33% in district level in 1991 and now it is 8.15% in rural area, 20.72% in urban area and 13.60% in district level. During in this period (1991-2011) the sector of construction has been generated 0.59% employment in rural areas, 2.41% in urban areas and 1.58% in district.

Trade and commerce sector has been developed in the rural area during in this period. Only 3.23% workers were engaged in trade and commerce sector in the rural area, 20.34% in urban area and 8.95% in 1991 in district but now it is 6.23% in rural area, 26.57% in urban area and 13.64% in district. Transportation sector play an important role in the

development of the rural area. In the year of 1991 only 1.53% population was engaged in the sector of transportation in rural area, 6.02% in urban area and 3.03% in the district but now it is 2.17% in rural area, 9.56% in urban area and 5.38% in district. Thus we can say that the sector of transportation is transforming rapidly in the study area.

Conclusion

Urbanization is the result of the development of socio-economic facilities. It's represents a revolutionary change in the whole pattern of social life. It is itself a product of basic economy and technological development. It tends in turn, once it comes into being to affect every aspect of existence. There are positive correlation between urbanization and rural development. Rural-urban fringe is the result of rural development which is developed due to the facilities of transportation. The rural areas are constantly changing into the fringe belt with the growth and development of transport and services.

The impact of the city of Meerut on its fringe are visible not only in the land use, agricultural practices and land values, but also on the other characteristics. Such as non-agricultural workers, density of population, utility services, primary activities food habits and medical facilities, etc. The degree of impact of different factors decreases with the increase in distances/time from Meerut Municipal Corporation boundary. The suburban population of Meerut gets employment in the town in private firms and in government offices, or as labourers and artisans. The daily wages are supposed to be quite lucrative. The

labourers get more wages in the town than in the villages. Therefore they prefer to work in Meerut city rather than in the agricultural fields.

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