

PAPER 4026

UNIT : II

CITY- REGION AND CONURBATION

Definition :

The city region is an area around the city over which the city exercises a dominant influence in relation to other neighbouring cities of equal importance. City regions are the products of various orders of cities and their surrounding area. A city has its ' dependents ' which are linked by virtue of their dwellers' requirements fulfilled by the city's various service institutions. Dependent centers of a city are generally smaller in size and they do not possess those specialized services which are only available at the neighbouring city of higher order than the dependent centers.

Structure of city region :

The structure of the city region is very complex. It consists of a series of areas of influence and areas of dominance . It is pertinent at this stage to examine three basic notions in relation to the structure of city region :

- a) The concept of area of influence**
- b) The concept of area of dominance**
- c) The concept of city region**

a)The concept of area of influence :

The area of city influence are contiguous areas around a city from where people commute to the city to obtain certain goods and services. Various institutions in the city such as hospitals, schools, colleges and so on have their corresponding areas of influence. The areas of influence for different services and goods may cover smaller or larger areas around the city and their shape may also differ.

Nature of area of influence :

Nature of a city of influence may differ from every hierarchical and functional classification.

1) **The area of influence for small towns (population 5000 to 20000)** may, for example, be delimited on the basis of the data on : A) addresses of account holders of a local bank. B) addresses of patients coming to a private allopathic doctor or govt. dispensary. C) Place of residence of customers visiting a local cloth store on selected days. D) Place of residence of customers coming for cycle repairs or cycle rentals. E) villages from which farmers bring their tractors to the local tractor mechanic. F) villages from which students come to the local secondary schools or junior college. G) village of origin of persons coming to the cinema house in town.

2) **The area of influence of the city (population 100000 or more)** : the criteria of a small town to be unsuitable. The city certainly will provide a wider range of services than a small town. It is necessary to select services that correspond to the hierarchical level of the city. Such services in the Indian context may include : a) Treatment by a specialist in a major hospital. b) college or university education c) Purchase of high value agricultural equipment such as tractors. d) Purchase of expensive clothing for a special occasion and so on.

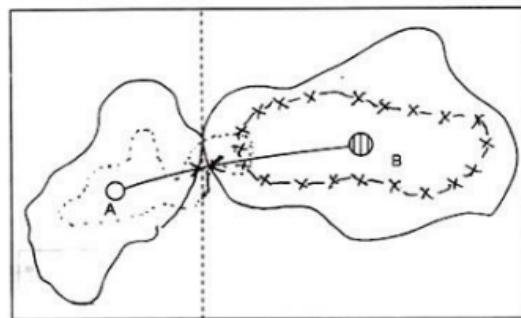
The criteria used to delimit the areas of influence of a city should not only depend on the hierarchical level of the city, but also on the nature of the city's functional specialization. For example , for an agricultural marketing centre, the criteria would focus on the catchment area of specific agricultural products for which the city region is known. For a recreation centre , the places of origin of the tourists would be more appropriate. In the study on Indian cities R.L.Singh's study of Varanasi stands out as a unique and pioneering effort. For Varanasi , Singh used 6 criteria : a) vegetables supply b) milk supply c) supply of grain d) bus service e) newspaper circulation and f) administrative area boundaries.

b)The concept of area of dominance :

In any landscape one would expect to find a number of cities of the same or similar importance, and the areas in between these cities are often

served by more than one city. In other words, the areas of influence of neighbouring cities tend to overlap, thus generating a zone of competition in between. In the middle of the zone of competition one can define a boundary which separates the areas of dominance of the competing cities. Within this boundary, the city exercises a dominant influence; its influence there is greater than the influence of any other city. The area of dominance of a city is an exclusive area and is, therefore of great significance in terms of territorial or regional divisions. Further the dominant area in reality is dominant not only with respect to one or two services, but with respect to all services of equal importance. Thus the area of dominance is a multifunctional area, while the area of influence is essentially an unifunctional area.

Areas of Influence and Zones of Competition and Overlap



- INDEX
- A ○ Town
 - B ⊕ City
 - Distance from City A
 - ← Distance from City B
 - ⋮ Zone of Competition between A & B
 - Area of Influence of X-Service of the Town A
 - ⊕ Area of Influence of X-Service of the Town B
 - ⊗ Overlapping Influence

Conurbation:

The term conurbation was coined by Patrick Geddes in 1915. A conurbation is an extended urban area, comprising a number of cities, large towns, and other urban areas which have merged to form one continuous urban and industrially developed area, through population growth and physical expansion, such as "the major conurbations of London and Birmingham". Usually, a conurbation is a polycentric urban agglomeration, where transportation has developed to link areas to create a single urban labour market or travel to work area. Thus conurbation is a city that has expanded into the surrounding towns (urban sprawl) and is now one big settlement under one name.