

PAPER 4026

UNIT : II

RURAL URBAN FRINGE

In recent years the term 'Rural Urban Fringe' has gained significance in the study of Urban Geography and scholars have tried to pay due attention to such studies. Many researches in urban geography, sociology, urban administration have begun.

There is a rapid trend of population growth not only in urban areas but in the rural areas as well. Large scale migrations have set in. Cities are thus increasing in size and importance and are spreading along main arterial roads as well as the out skirts. The land use patterns of nearby rural areas have undergone a change. The socio-economic structure of the city is also getting affected.

There are two types of growth – firstly our existing urban areas continue to grow into the countryside and secondly, more isolated housing development is occurring beyond the urban fringe. The term 'fringe' is used to denote an area or line of limit between the rural and urban areas. It is, in fact, an encroachment of urban and rural land. Newly emerging houses having low density roads and commercial establishments cause urban areas to grow further into the countryside and increasing density of settlements in rural lands. Another kind of development often occurs beyond the edges of the existing urban areas and often adjacent to non-metropolitan areas. The area presents challenging problems for an expanding city.

Many scholars have tried to highlight the variations in such similar cases. In 1958, Kurz and Fletcher tried to establish the difference between fringe and urban areas. In 1961, Wissink used the term fringe, suburb, pseudo suburb and suburb. Rural urban fringe is a neglected zone as it falls beyond the administrative limits of the city. Many scholars call the

fringe area by different names. Burgess calls it a peripheral zone. Census of India has used the term "Out Urban Area". Some call it "Rural Urban Continuum".

Evolution of the concept of fringe

Evolution of the term goes back to Von Thunen in 1826, the city is surrounded by a system of concentric belts of land use. Others who have made a contribution are Jonnason, Duglass, Mckenzie, Park, Burgess, Makaye, Christaller who devised Central Place Theory, Homer Hoyt, Mckenzie, Chales C Colby. who have discussed the fringe in their own way.

In 1937, T.L Smith, firstly used the term 'urban fringe' and said this area is outside the administrative limit. In 1940, Salter discussed that this is an area where we find a mixture of land use both urban and rural. In 1945, Balk described the fringe as an area of urbanization. In 1962, Wehrwein called it suburban development. In 1960, Russwarm discussed this discontinuous area. In 1962, G.A Wissink gave it the name of 'An Area of great Differentiation.'

Definition of Rural- Urban Fringe

An attempt to define it has been made by foreign and Indian scholars. T.S. Smith (1931) has highlighted the characteristics of the fringe area found between continuous built up area and rural landscape in their own way. G.S Wehrwein (1942) has recognized that rural urban fringe consists of rural territory pierced by fringe-like projection of urbanized land uses because of stellar growth of the city and transition between well organized urban land uses and adjacent peripheral zone of agricultural area. R.R Mayers and J.A Beagle have described 'Urban fringe is the zone between countryside and the city'. Apart from them other scholars have included Lewis Keeble, Garnier and Chabot.

Some Indian Scholars as R.L Singh has called it as the rural land with urban phenomena. M.M.P Sinha has defined 'rural urban fringe' in the real sense as a narrow zone with varying width outside the political boundaries of an urban unit which is neither urban or rural in character. It acts as a bridge between the two.

Characteristics of Rural- Urban Fringe

Rural urban zone is an area of transition with two contrasting ecosystems. The landscape portrays the impingement of houses encroaching in this area. Small villages have grown up with commuting people. These are characterized by growth of golf courses, industrial establishments, shopping centres, waterways, hypermarkets and graveyards . In western cities there is no break in the continuity which is strengthened by journey to work .R.E Dickinson believes there are fast land use changes reflected in premature urban growth .Municipal corporation does not take responsibility for this area. Slaughter houses, junkyards, wholesale establishments ,cemeteries and sewage plants are found in this area which produces an obnoxious environment.

Walter Firey (Flint City, Michigan) believes there has been usurpation of agricultural land by residential tract. Land value is lesser in agricultural land and the density of population decreases from urban to rural area. Proyer in 1968, has argued that the built up area near the city is just like a social and economic unit. People get urban facilities like electricity , gas, water and transport facilities. Golledge has said these rural urban characteristics do not apply in developing countries. According to him there is :-

- 1. Constantly changing pattern of land use**
- 2. It has small size of farms**
- 3. Intensive production of crops**
- 4. Mobile population**
- 5. Division of land into uneven sizes of plots**

6. Expansion of residential buildings

7. Incomplete provision of services and public utilities.

Indian geographers as Sudesh Nangia in 1976 studied the fringe of Delhi Metropolitan region She believed that the zone is not concentric but polygonal in shape.'R.L Singh studied rural urban fringe of Varanasi.Ujagir Singh did a study of KAVAL Cities. MMP Sinha has believed that rural urban is a narrow belt with variable width. The picture is different in developed countries where we find big houses,cars,open spaces for gardens and people having high income.

Types of Rural Urban Fringe

Rural urban fringe is a dynamic zone. It changes its shape and limits with increase in urban facilities. The fringe area can be placed in two groups.

1 .Primary urban fringe- This belt touches the outer administrative limit of the city. After development it witnesses rapid development of urban facilities and various activities. Andrews has named it urban fringe while the outlying adjacent zone is named Reinmann . Myres and Beegle call it 'True fringe' 'Inner fringe' by Whiteland.' Inner fringe or urban suburban fringe' by MMP Sinha.

2. Secondary urban fringe - Secondary urban fringe is an area extending outside the primary urban fringe. It has primarily rural characteristics which have developed slowly. Urban functions are less.

Factors of Development of Rural Urban Fringe

Some of the driving forces of the development of fringe areas can be outlined as follows.

1. Population Increase- There is continuous influx of people to urban areas in search of livelihood. They are often engaged in non formal jobs

and do not have a place to live in urban areas. Fringe gives them solace as they can stay along roads I outside the margins of the city.

2. Increased Income and wealth- Increase in income has brought about changes in lifestyles. The rich prefer living on the fringe with an improved lifestyle.

3. Transportation and communication technologies – Development of transport has helped expansion and have helped rural people to move off their farms and also the city people to be dispersed to surrounding suburbs.

4. Increased investments in new infrastructure. There has been a manifold increase in the city's function as a result of which retail houses, warehouses and other commercial development has taken place and employment to relocate labor forces. The urban fringe has developed but it is underdeveloped.
