

## **TOPIC – RURAL URBAN FRINGE**

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**Paper EC-I – Urban Geography**

**By**

**Dr. Anuradha Sahay**

**Professor**

**Department of Geography**

**Patna University .**

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In recent years the term 'Rural Urban Fringe' has gained significance in the study of Urban Geography and scholars have tried pay due attention on 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 landuse pattern 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 into 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 have tried to establish the difference between fringe and urban area. In 1961, Wissink in 1961, 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 the concept of fringe.**

Evolution of the term goes back to Vonthunen 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 mixture of land use both urban and rural. In 1945, Balk

describes that fringe is an area of urbanization. In 1962, Wehrwein calls it suburban development. In 1960, Russwarm has discussed that this is discontinuous area. In 1962, G.A. Wissink has given the name of 'An Area of great Differentiation.'

### **Definition of Rural- Urban Fringe**

An attempt to define 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 landuses because of stellar growth of the city and transition between well organized urban landuses and adjacent peripheral zone of agricultural area. R.R. Mayers and J.A. Beagle has described 'Urban fringe is the zone between countryside and the city'. Apart from them other scholars have as 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 is a narrow zone with varying width outside the political boundaries of an urban unit which is neither urban nor 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 environments on ecosystem. The landscape portrays impingement of houses encroaching in this area. Small villages have grown up with commuting people. These are characterized by growth of golf courses, industrial establishment, 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 is fast land use changes reflected in premature urban growth .Municipal corporation does not take responsibility for this area. Slaughter house, junkyardsc,wholesale establishments ,cemeteriesand sewage plants are found in this area which produces 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 built up area near the city is just like 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 sub-urban 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 has developed slowly. Urban functions are less.

### **Factors of Development of Rural Urban Fringe.**

Some of the driving forces of the development of fringe area 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 place to live in urban areas. Fringe is gives them solace as they can stay along roads I outside the margins of the city.
- 2. Increased Income and wealth.-** Increase in incoime has brought about changes in life styles. The rich prefer living in the fringe with improved life style.
- 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 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 sdeveloped but it is underdeveloped.

## **Delimitation of Rural Urban Fringe**

Demarcation of fringe area is a real problem. Many scholars have given different views. The characteristics and functions differ among the cities. The scholars have considered many factors in their delimitation of the area. There are two methods of demarcation of rural urban fringe..

1. Imperical method
2. Statistical method

**1, Imperical method** is a very traditional method which implies that the continuous built up area is a basis of delineation. Some of the scholars who have contributed are Smith (1937) ,Andrews (1942) ,M.W Rodehaver, W.T Martin (1957),S.W Blizzard and W,F Anderson (1962), D. Mukherjee (1963) ,Oosthwizen (1969), R.J Prayor, M.K Srivastava and Ujagir Singh . They have given their techniques of delimiting the fringe area.

The following indices may be considered as a base point for the delimitation of the zone of fringe belt.

1. Changes in landuse
2. Changes in built up area
3. Occupational structure of population
4. House types
5. Distribution of industrial and non agricultural activities
6. Limit of essential services
7. The distribution of educational institutions.

## 2. Statistical Method

Dr MMP Sinha in 1980 has applied statistical method in demarcation of urban fringe. He has first tried to determine the influence area with the help of Isochrone. He has considered the word limit as (T) 100. The area outside is considered 0. The urban Index is found between 0 and 100 and values given to number of villages. The correlation between all factors of the villages have been found out. Those villages have been excluded where the value is below +30 and -30. The mean value of other factors have been taken which is known as scale of urbanity. As we move away from the city the population density decreases. The sex ratio increases away from the city. This gives positive correlation.

Some of the notable works in India is of R.L Singh on Varanasi Fringe, Harihar Singh of Kanpur Fringe, Ujagir Singh did a study of KAVAL cities, K.N Gopi of Hyderabad metropolitan fringe, MMP Sinha of Patna fringe, Sudesh Nangia of Delhi metropolitan fringe area, Hiralal on Bareilly fringe' Today it can be suitably be classified as

1. Inner fringe zone or area of convenience
2. Outer fringe zone or slowly progressive zone.

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