



Trends of Transition in an Urban Fringe of Lucknow

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Abstract:

Indian Village society has received phenomenal changes in its socio-cultural and economic system due to the process of Urbanization. The impact of rural-urban interconnections, means of transport and education ultimately leading the fringe villages towards urbanizing themselves. Village society, which is traditionally known as agrarian society, with the exposure of industrial-urban society has moved from subsistence economy to market economy. Urbanization has vastly impacted the villages situated on its periphery as compared to the one farther to the city. Agricultural land has opened up to the markets to be utilized for the purpose other than agriculture and the urban Impact is transforming the traditional lifestyle of villagers of the fringe villages.

Index Terms: Urbanization, Urban Fringe, Urban Impact, Urban Occupation, Occupational Mobility

Main Text: The rapid growth of metropolitan cities has brought about the spatial spread of urban areas. Cities have expanded into the adjoining villages in a haphazard and unplanned manner. The agricultural lands of the peripheral villages are converted for industrial and residential uses. The physical expansion of the city has given rise to the formation of fringes, which is a highly transitional zone between rural and urban land uses. Conceptually, the urban fringe is the area that lies immediately outside the designated limit of a city/town. It has strong linkages with the city and bears an urban reflection in its physical, occupational, socio-economic and demographic characteristics. The urban fringe, also called the rural-urban fringe, the city edge, the city periphery, the city's outskirts, the city's outlying areas etc., essentially consists of the spillover urban land uses and activities that could not be accommodated in the city itself, due to the various cost and other constraints. (Tewari, 2011).

Over last few decades, these urban fringes are expanding fast and attaining significance, surrounding all metropolitan cities in India. Growth of cities has expanded the economic opportunities and attracted the people from small towns and villages. Rural people have migrated to cities in search of better employment opportunities and other facilities. Many other forces such as attraction of cities, better standard of living, better education facilities, need for status also induce people to migrate to cities and these all resulted into the expansion of urban areas into its periphery. The big cities are expanding physically into the peripheral villages in an unplanned and haphazard manner. This unplanned urban expansion has given rise to the formation of fringe as a dynamic zone with mixed characteristics of rural and urban activities. Due to the on-going process of urbanization, the rural character of fringe is gradually or some time abruptly replaced by the urban profile in the terms of land use, employment and culture. The physical growth of cities has brought significant changes in the rural-

urban interconnections. A village on an urban-fringe is now open to various opportunities offered by the growing cities.

The physical expansion of the city has brought inevitable changes in fringe villages. Due to urban influence, land uses are getting transformed from agricultural to non agricultural purposes. New economic opportunities by the growing city initiated many new activities for villagers showing a point of departure from their traditional activities. The present study has been taken up to understand the transitional nature of an Indian village situated on a city fringe.

Area of the Study:

In order to assess the transition of fringe villages, Lucknow has been selected for the research. Thus, all the fringes surrounding this city are identified as the universe of the study. As the capital of a larger state Lucknow is the center of all political, administrative and economic activities and has always been the nerve of development activities. The fringe areas around the city are undergoing the process of transformation in their social, occupational demographic and infrastructural characteristics. Present study is done in the village Chhota Bharwara of Chinhath block of Lucknow City. The studied village Chhota Bharwara is a small village of Bharwara gram panchayat, situated at the distance of 11 kilometers from the Lucknow city headquarters.

Methodology:

Village is the focus of present study in the context of transition, and households are the units in which changes need to be explained. The present study is descriptive in nature; therefore, a descriptive research design is adopted for the study. The sample design of present study was done at three stages. At the first stage the selection of an urban fringe through purposive sampling was made. Selected fringe area is Chinhath block, located at the distance of 11 kilometers from the Lucknow city headquarters. At the second stage, a village Chhota Bharwara from Chinhath block is taken for the study which comes under Revenue village Bharwara. Bharwara is an agglomeration of four small villages named; Jagpalkheda, Mankheda, Gaderianpurva and Chhota Bharwara. All these small villages have gone through the same processes of change. Out of these four Chhota Bharwara is selected purposely as it is the largest amongst all and is a good representation of the revenue village. The village has good connectivity with the main city which ensures closer contact of villagers and urban dwellers. This has made the greater influence of urban culture and lifestyle on this fringe village. At the final stage, 55 households that is 50 % of the total households, of Chhota Bharwara selected through stratified random sampling. The criterion of selecting the village is that it is passing through the process of urbanization. The quantitative and qualitative socio-structural data have been collected from a comprehensive and purposeful field work which is based on the interaction with the people. For the effective and flawless data collection, interview and focused group discussion methods were extensively used during the field work. Interviews done are mainly semi- structured and questions are open ended so that responses are not restricted.

Findings: This village is totally urbanized in its occupational character. The dependency of every household is mainly on urban occupation as their primary resource of income. Although few of them are still concerned with farming on their further purchased agricultural land at other place, but their purpose of farming is consumption only not to earn profit from it. Few of land owners have not shown any interest in farming; they have kept their land for future appreciations in land values. Villagers of are seen involved in various types of urban occupations.

In this village all 54 households of Yadavas are seen involved in various urban occupations whereas the only Muslim household residing in the village has opened his barber shop in the neighboring area of the village. It is observed that only 6 people in the village are in Government jobs

while others are employed in unorganized sectors in the city. It is also seen that in the village, there are no options left for occupations other than few shops.

Table: 5.9 Respondents Involved in Urban Occupations

Occupations	No. of Yadav Households
Job in Govt. Offices	06
Job in Private Offices	08
Shopkeeper	03
Works in shops	07
Driver	05
Cyber Cafe	03
Cable Operator	01
Vegetable Seller	06
Fruit Seller	02
Hawker	02
Gardener	02
Electrician	01
Plumber	02
Labourer	06
Muslim Barber	01
Total	55

Most of the villagers are seen involved in urban occupations as there is no scope for occupational opportunities left in the village except shop keeping at small scale. Three households are running small shops in the village which fulfills the daily requirements of villagers' life. There is a shopping complex in the surrounding area of the village. Villagers usually prefer to go there. For major household purchase they go to the weekly market at Chinhat bazaar. These markets have limited the scope of shop keeping inside the village area.

It is found that in the village that only 6 respondents are working in government office, in which 4 respondents are class-4 employees in Nagar Nigam and 2 respondents are class-3 employees in high court. 8 respondents are working in private offices which are not permanent in nature. Other respondents are seen involved in many other occupations which are basically fulfilling the urban needs. It is found that villagers are not much skilled and educated to get the jobs of high salary. 20 % of the households are involved in milk selling also. Apart from agricultural, milk selling was traditionally been done by the Yadavas but now in the village only 20% households, that is 11 household, are seen involved in agricultural occupations.

Dependence on Agriculture

There is no agricultural land left in this village, as it has already been sold to the private builders twenty years back. Although some of them further invested in land at other places, not all of them were able to maintain it. To meet out the livelihood expenses, land has been sold by them and their succeeding generations from time to time. At present scenario more than 40% of the villagers are not holding any land anywhere. Among 55 households of Yadavas, 22 are landless as of now. 8 households are holding land between 1-10 Biswas. 9 households are having the land between 10.1-19 Biswas while 7 households are holding land between 1 to 2 Bighas. Two households are holding land between the category of 2.1 to 3 Bighas, one household holding land between 3.1 to 4 bighas and one household is

having land between in 4.1 to 5 Bighas. There are five households of Yadavas who are holding the land more than 5 Bighas. The only Muslim household residing in the village is not holding any agricultural land anywhere.

It is observed that all most every household in the village is involved in the urban occupations as this village is situated just adjacent to the main city. All the villagers, who are holding land, have given their land on sharecropping. Those who are not holding any agricultural land are totally dependent on urban occupations while many of the small landholders are dependent on agriculture for personal consumptions, they are not in that state to earn profit through it. The households, who are holding land more than 5 Bighas, agriculture is still a source of income, though they equally dependent on urban occupations also. For 90 % of the villagers land is no more as the main source of earnings, it is an investment in order to get benefitted by selling it in future.

It is found that the villagers in their lifestyles are totally urbanized, they are now much interested in urban occupations rather than agricultural. In fact they are educating their next generation in order to get better job opportunities in the city. Agricultural land has now become only as an asset for them, not the livelihood resource, which is kept by them for future appreciation. Villagers are seeking the new ways of earning through exploring new options in modern urban set ups reflecting occupational mobility from their traditional mode of livelihood.

Villagers have started to provide the rented accommodations to the outsiders who come to the city in search of job opportunities. It is emerging as a new mode of earning money as an impact of urbanization. People coming from far off towns and villages in search of job opportunities, often find themselves unable to afford high priced rented accommodations in the main city, prefer to live in fringe villages of the city. Village Chhota Bharwara and the villages in its neighboring areas are popular place for the labourers, artisans and some servicemen who can't afford to live in the main city.

In this village there are 12 households providing rental accommodations. Out of which, 6 are giving just one room of their house on rent whereas three households have made provisions in their houses for more than one room on rent, but tenants have to share a common bathroom with each other. Three household are those who provide compact two room set with basic facilities in it. The rent of the accommodation depends on the facilities provided with it. It is observe that in the village small rooms on rents with lacking facilities are much in demand as these are available on cheaper rents. Providing houses on rent has become an additional source of income these days. Although, the households themselves not shared the amount of rent they are taking for, others households informed that single room with lacking facilities is seen to be rented on 12 to 15 hundreds per months. The rent gets increases as per facilities provided with it. Tenants are seen taking rooms on share with their mates who came along with them to work in the city.

All most all the tenants in the village are working in the city in unorganized sectors. In the village, 16 tenants are staying in 12 rented accommodations provided by different households. Among them 8 are working as labourers, 5 as artisans, 2 as painters and one as driver in different places in the city.

Villagers of Chhota Bharwara are depending mainly on urban occupations. Majority of them are not much skilled to be working in organized sectors and as professionals in the urban areas. Therefore, most of them are working in unorganized sectors as a laborer which is does not benefit them much since as the monetary gain is less.

The process urbanization is leading to the transformation of agricultural land into urban land uses on the one hand; on the other attracting the villagers towards new urban occupations and urban lifestyles. This two-way process is encouraging the villagers towards land selling and adopting the

urban ways of living which is ultimately resulting into the transformation of an agricultural village into a landless Urban Village.

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