CUTTACK
STANDARD URBAN AREA

CONCLUSION

Chapter VII
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CONCLUSION

The increasing degree of urbanization and rapid growth of urban agglomerations are extremely new phenomena in human history. In recent years the importance of investigation of towns and cities in the form of service centres has been increasingly recognised as urban centres are evidently the focus of modernisation and regional economic development. The growth of urban agglomerations in India, as well as in other countries, is primarily expressed in the continuous expansion in the size of the biggest cities and their growing importance. In the present study an investigation has been made to find out the spatio-temporal variations in the process of urbanization associated with large urban centres which results in the expanding and encroaching impact on the surrounding sub-urban and rural areas. The study has maintained a balance between the physical and cultural phenomena which are the causal factors for the progress of urbanization in the area under investigation as well as between quantitative and qualitative approach to describe the geographical phenomena.
The suitability of the physical and cultural setting of the Cuttack Standard Urban Area promotes greatly the socio-economic prosperity of the people inhabiting the region with all the favourable factors such as centrality of its location, supply of abundant water resource, suitable climatic conditions, developed transportation links with all other important urban centres of the state as well as of the country, the region exhibits the most advanced trends of urbanization and population concentration. The process of urbanization in this region is different in many respects from that of the western countries as well as from other parts of India. The growth of urban population here is mostly due to the influx of rural population. This large influx of rural people being associated with the shortage of space in the core city (Cuttack city) results in the emergence and rapid growth of small urban units in the surrounding areas. The area under study possesses the primate city of the state (Cuttack city) at its core and five other small but growing urban units surrounded by rural areas on which the influence of urban centre is strong and intensive. Because of this strong urban influence and intensive functional interaction, these rural areas are expected to be socio-economically transformed into urban character in the near future.

Urbanization and the socio-economic transformation of the rural areas are generally expressed in the demographic structure, landuse pattern, strong functional interaction with urban centres and in other related aspects. To analyse the trend of urbaniz-
tion, the functional interaction between the urban centres and the surrounding rural areas and their socio-economic transformation various concerned aspects have been studied. Since urban growth is numerical and urbanization is proportional growth various pertinent features of urbanization like the relative growth of total, urban and rural population have been studied and the progress of urbanization has been analysed.

The concept of Standard Urban Area is different from that of the urban area in that it not only comprises the core town or city but the surrounding rural areas which are urbanized or potentially urbanizable within a period of two to three decades. The Cuttack Standard Urban Area includes Cuttack Urban Agglomeration and portions of surrounding four Police Stations which are rural in character. The purpose behind the inclusion of these rural areas is that they have close socio-economic links with the core city. The spatio-temporal analysis of their population in the past years reveals that they show a tendency to be urbanised as a contiguous urban area. The study of demography of the Cuttack Standard Urban Area reveals to a considerable extent the potentiality in the rural components to be urbanised in the near future.

In view of the tremendous increase in the size of cities and urban centres and world-wide urbanization during the past few decades the study of population growth, structure and composition has received a great deal of attention, as the study of demography is basic to understand the process of urbanization. As it has been revealed by the study of population in Cuttack
Standard Urban Area, the demographic dynamism and the intensity of the degree of urbanisation are both intimately interlinked with each other. Looking to the past it can be mentioned that before 1950 Cuttack city was the only urban centre in the region and it was just like an island in the sea of rural settlements. But the increasing degree of population concentration in the city accompanied by development in socio-economic status has resulted in a spreading out process and the surrounding rural areas have been transformed into urban areas. This tendency has been intensified in the recent years because of the increasing socio-economic importance of the region and with the influence of the urban centre the surrounding rural areas are undergoing socio-economic transformation.

It has been adequately proved in the context of Cuttack Standard Urban Area that the vertical as well as horizontal growth of urban centres is because of the numerical change of their population and the change in socio-economic status of the region. Vertical growth has a certain limit and when it reaches to that the intensity of horizontal growth of urban centres increases. Thus the areal expansion of an urban unit adds to its population and the residents of the territories which were outside the boundary of the urban area at one point of time come to remain within it at a later point of time.

When the horizontal expansion of an urban unit takes place it is generally understood that the territories adjacent to the city acquire urban character possessing a set of criteria
such as particular levels of population density or non-agricultural employment. This is observed in the case of the areas surrounding Cuttack city and now the rural components of the Cuttack Standard Urban area are undergoing socio-economic transformation being influenced by the urban components. The functional interaction between the urban centre and the surrounding rural components is very intense and it leads to conclude with the statement that the rural components are rightly on the highways of urbanization so far as all the aspects of urbanization are concerned they are not revealed by the rural components. Their population composition, economic structure and social status are changing rapidly, along with the change of these factors in the urban components. The present structure of population such as sex composition, livelihood pattern and literacy condition also show a marked progress on temporal basis. The change in occupational structure with increasing importance on tertiary sector is quite perceptive. Along with the urban centers, the rural areas also reveal a great diversity in the composition of people of various religion and social group. The distribution pattern and density of people in the rural components is also changing rapidly with the progress of time and the region is gradually getting saturated with people. The region provides wide opportunity for employment in different sectors, good market condition, well organized industrial enterprises etc. which cause the number of immigrants to increase from day to day in this region. All these phenomena are resulting in a clear socio-economic transformation of the areas concerned and these transformations and trends have been measured in the study.
using various quantitative and qualitative methods. The findings reveal that the transformation is positive and region is revealing a clear process of urbanization.

Again, the socio-economic transformation of a region or the change in its regional standard is greatly expressed in the landuse pattern of the region concerned. Landuse pattern is the reflection of the character of a region and with each step in its transformation the landuse pattern gets modified. Urban community which develops as a part of the social and economic system is certainly a dynamic organism constantly changing in a variety of ways to meet the multiplying needs of the growing inhabitants. The amount of land utilised by specific activities and for specific purposes, to meet the growing needs of the inhabitants and their spatial distribution reflects the requirement of that system. The socio-economic changes in the urban community being associated with new, different and growing demands on the service of the land results in a changing and more suitably developed landuse pattern for the urban region concerned. The greatest change in the morphology of an urban community is, to a large measure, the result of the spatio-temporal growth of the urban area itself. With the increase in population of an urban centre through natural growth or by migration, the demand on new living and working place goes on increasing and this demand is satisfied by peripheral expansion, by internal rearrangement of landuses and by the infilling of vacant land. The predominant type of growth occurs in the form
of lateral expansion into surrounding agricultural areas where raw land is converted to urban purposes. Thus, the conversion of agricultural lands in the rural components into other uses can be taken as an important parameter to know whether these areas are undergoing transformation. The study has attempted at analysing the existing basis and it has been observed that though a significant proportion of the rural land has been devoted to agricultural use, still the proportion of land devoted to other uses, which are generally considered as urban in character, is increasing from time to time. The landuse pattern of the region can be said to be, more or less in a fluid state. Frequent changes due to economy of scale, supply and demand, changes in income pattern of the people are occurring which affect the existing landuse pattern. In the urban components the rearrangement in the existing structures is common whereas in rural components of the Standard Urban Area the agricultural lands are converted into more productive uses. This reveals the sign of urbanization process in the later areas. In recent years this change in landuse pattern in the rural areas has become frequent and it is expected that with the intensification of the present trend the rural areas will be converted into urban character in the near future. Simultaneously, it is marked that the landuse pattern of the region lacks any systematic plan or design. The existing landuse pattern of Cuttack city is the result of unplanned and unrestricted spread of landuse structures along narrow lanes and paths. There appears to be no inter-relationship
between the various uses. In other components of the Standard Urban Area the landuse pattern is not designed in a systematic manner. In the rural components, the change of land from agricultural use to other more productive use is also not properly guided which brings an unhealthy look to the area concerned. In this regard the author feels that the landuse pattern in all the parts of the region may be strictly controlled from now and measures may be taken to redevelop the existing uses, so that the economic base of those components will strengthen and in future, no severe problem relating to landuse pattern will arise which may be detrimental to the socio-economic status of the urban area.

Socio-economic interaction between the urban centre and the surrounding rural areas is taken as the important criterion to delimit the area under study. The urban area, for its full understanding has to be interpreted as an organic part of a social group. The urban area as a living organism depends not only on its internal resources, but also on the surrounding region and thereby gets socio-economically interlinked with the later. Various quantitative techniques have been used by the author to delimit the region which is economically, socially and culturally linked up with the core city. The umland of Cuttack Standard Urban Area has been delimited with the help of various service zones. The analysis of different service areas and the various functions performed by the urban centre shows the interrelationship and interdependence between the
urban centre and the surrounding areas. From the context of Cuttack Standard Urban Area it has been revealed that the town-country relationship is fast growing in the region. The introduction of bus service and its extension to rural areas, the establishment of educational institutions and hospitals in urban and rural areas, greater circulation of newspapers with increased literacy and postal services in rural areas, etc., are strengthening the social, cultural and economic ties between the urban centres and the surrounding rural areas. The surrounding rural areas of Cuttack Standard Urban Area are now observed to be closely interlinked functionally with the urban components because of the tendency of specialization. With the intensification of this trend, the rural areas are sure to be converged with the urban components in the near future by acquiring the characteristics of urban centre. But the only drawback which is felt in the present time is that the planning of the urban centre and the surrounding rural areas is not integrated and it is undertaken almost separately. The planning of the urban centres is left in the hands of the town planners while the rural areas are left aside and are neglected. But all aspects of the interrelation between the urban centre and the surrounding rural areas should be considered and the planning should be guided so as to meet the needs of the inhabitants of both the areas and to strengthen the socio-economic ties between them.
Thus, to conclude, it can be mentioned that whole of the Cuttack Standard Urban Area is now undergoing socio-economic transformation and revealing an intense phase of urbanization. The population of the urban components particularly Cuttack city is increasing rapidly. Other urban components are acquiring importance day by day. The rural areas of the Standard Urban Area are revealing clear-cut tendency of social and economic transformation and they are gradually getting on to the highway of urbanization. The core city of the region is strongly influencing these areas and the latter are getting closely attached to the urban centre. They are expressing their change in character through the change in demography, landuse pattern and functional interaction. So with the present trend of socio-economic transformation and with the present trend of urbanization, that the region in general is showing, it will be logical to foretell that the rural components of the Cuttack Standard Urban Area will soon and surely merge in the urban components and the process may continue to engulf more of the surrounding region to form a contiguous urban centre which will be the rare of its kind in the national level.