

Rural Interactions of Urban Households in Haryana – A Case Study of Bhiwani District

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Abstract: This study aims at finding rural linkages in City Bhiwani of Haryana. It aims to find out rural connections of city dwellers. The concept of “Rural -Urban Continuum” merges rural and urban elements connoting rural elements in urban areas and urban elements in rural areas. So urbanism as a way of life in urban areas carries with it elements of ruralism giving rise to rural-urban continuum. Bhiwani city is becoming urbanized slowly adopting urban way of life but also maintaining rural connections. Different communities with different cultural backgrounds maintain different quantity of rural connections. Results of this study shows that specific communities such as members of Jat caste has more rural connections than other castes.

Keywords: Urbanism, Ruralism, Rural Connections, Rural Urban Continuum.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of urbanization is generally perceived by common man as living in cities, having administrative facilities, transportation and communication facilities, recreational facilities such as cinema, museum, concert house and most important than these are hospitals and educational institutions. Although trade centres of medieval times attracted rural people to cities but industrialization led to momentous increase in process of urbanization drawing big pool of workers from rural areas. In case of India, first wave of industrialization started when first cotton mill was established in Bombay in 1854. As per census of India 1901, near about 11.4% population was residing in urban areas which increased to 31.1 % as per census of India 2011 continuing to 34% in 2017 according to World Bank. Different nations use different criteria to define urban areas such as in Philippines – density of population should be 500 persons / sq.km with parallel or right angled street pattern, having at least six manufacturing establishments, at least three out of these – Church, a town hall, park, market place or trading centre, hospital or library, school. In Benin, criteria for town is- 10000 residents or above, at least four out of these – Tax office, post office, public treasury, electricity, health centre, secondary school. In case of India there are three criteria for any settlement to be declared census towns – a) at least population of 5000 or above b) population density of 400 persons per square kilometres c) 75% of male work force should be engaged in non-agricultural activities. There

is rarely a sharp division between rural and urban life specially in today's interconnected world or globalized world. Notwithstanding this linkage between rural and urban settlements was prevalent in mediaeval time also but in the context of India the two concepts “ruralism” and “urbanism” were rigidly defined by authors under the impact of colonial discourse presenting rural society as fixed and stagnant with no connection with market and urban settlements. Besides the fact that rural and urban areas have always been dependent on each other but under the impact of modern technology, growth of transportation facilities and communication this interdependence has become profound in this globalized world. These rigid terms were merged when the concept of “Rural – urban Continuum” was invented by Robert Redfield on the basis of study of Mexican peasants of Tepoztlain. Urban linkage is reciprocal flows of goods, people, money and environmental services (Boham D.2018). In document – “Rural – Urban linkages – India Case Study” Eric .D and Marie – Helene Zerah has mentioned various linkages between urban and rural settlements. The share of cultivators and labourers in agricultural activities has declined. According to National Sample Survey between 2005 and 2010 the total work force in agriculture has declined from 58.2% to 54.6% causing small towns in India act as intermediary point from urban to rural areas. Migration of rural people to urban areas involves movement to small towns rather than larger city and that movement is generally temporary. So there exists temporary migration between villages and small towns not permanent residential migration.

Table 1: Elements of Urbanism by Different Scholars

| Author | Items |
|---------------------|---|
| Anderson | Anonymity, Tolerance, Superficiality, Sophistication, Commercialization, Transiency, Individualism |
| Bergel | Non- agricultural life |
| Carpenter | Impersonal relations, Anonymity, Mobility, New family role, Employment patterns, More female employment, Multiple dwelling units |
| Cole | Heterogeneity, Impersonal relations, Division of labour |
| Erickson | Heterogeneity, Impersonal relations, Tenancy |
| Gist and Halbert | Heterogeneity, secularism, cosmopolitanism, |
| | New family role, employment patterns, more female employment ,multiple dwelling units, low fertility , commercialization, liberalism, interdependency ,social participation |
| Hallenbeck | Heterogeneity, Anonymity, Class differences, Predatory relations |
| Lee | Heterogeneity, Division of labour, Anonymity, Mobility, Emphasis on time , Non- agricultural life, |
| Queen and Carpenter | Heterogeneity, Impersonal relations, Class differences |
| Quinn | Heterogeneity, Impersonal relations, Division of labour, Mobility , Segmental roles |
| Redfield | Heterogeneity, Automation , Critical Attitude |
| Rierner | Heterogeneity, Segmental roles , Predatory relations, Cosmopolitanism |
| Simmel | Division of labour , Emphasis on time, Blase attitude |
| Stewart | Employment patterns, Non- agricultural life , Subjective outlook, |
| Wirth | Heterogeneity, Impersonal relations, Division of labour Anonymity, Mobility, Segmental roles , Class differences, Predatory relations, Emphasis on time |

These elements of urbanism mentioned by different scholars may be different but basic spirit revolves around heterogeneity, impersonal relations , non – agricultural life, mobility , anonymity etc. Elements of ruralism and urbanism are not as rigid as considered theoretically. Empirical reality is different ,can be explained by the concept of Rural – urban continuum. In fact , the terms “rural” and “urban” lack standard which they must conform if they are to be valued in teaching and research(Wirth 1938). According to Wirth generally most sociologists agree on the formal criteria of a scientific definition of urban phenomenon defining – communities in terms of variables of population and area, urban variables are considered causes and consequences of variations in size and density of settlement (Hatt,P Reiss ,Albert J.1957). So on the basis of three variables as argued by Wirth – number, density of settlement, degree of

heterogeneity may explain characteristics of urban life. So personality characteristics of urban personality depend on population density, number and heterogeneity. Wirth mentions characteristic of urban personality as – blasé outlook , indifference, sophistication, cosmopolitanism, rationality, relativistic perspectives, competitive self, exploitative attitude , irritation , acceptance of instability etc.

In case of Haryana having 34.90% population living in urban areas according to 2011 census as compared to 17.66% in 1971. Highly urbanised districts in Haryana are Faridabad with urban population 79.51% , Gurgaon with urban population 68.82% and Panchkula with urban population 55.81%. As Gurgaon and Faridabad are highly industrialised cities ,migration factor plays an important role in increasing urban population As shown in Table 2 , spatial distribution of urban population has been shown.

Table 2: Spatial Distribution of Urban Population in Haryana

| District | Urban population in %age | District | Urban population in %age |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Ambala | 44.38 | Kurukshetra | 28.95 |
| Bhiwani | 19.66 | Mahendragarh | 14.41 |
| Charkhi Dadri | - | Mewat | 11.39 |
| Faridabad | 79.51 | Palwal | 22.69 |
| Fatehabad | 19.06 | Panchkula | 55.81 |
| Gurgaon | 68.82 | Panipat | 46.05 |
| Hisar | 31.74 | Rewari | 25.93 |
| Jhajhar | 25.39 | Rohtak | 42.04 |
| Jind | 22.90 | Sirsa | 24.65 |
| Kaithal | 21.97 | Sonipat | 31.27 |
| Karnal | 30.21 | Yamunanagar | 38.94 |

Source- District Census Handbook – Series -7 ,Part 12(Census of India -2011)

II. FIELD AREA AND METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

This is descriptive study in which 3 colonies DC colony, Sector 13 and Krishna colony were selected by cluster random sampling from Bhiwani city and sample of 70 respondents were selected randomly from 3 colonies. Interview schedule method was used to collect information. Area of study Bhiwani, a deserted place in Haryana, was founded by Rajput chief Maharaja Neem Singh on the name of his wife Bhaani, having population of 16,34,445 (1,313,123 rural people and 3,213,22 urban people). Total area of Bhiwani is 4778 sq.km having 4719 sq.km as rural area and 580 sq.km of urban area (District Census Handbook, Series -7, Part – 12th). This city is divided into 31 wards having following colonies such as Vijay nagar, Patel nagar, Jagat colony, DC colony, BTM colony, Housing board colony, Huda residential colonies, Vidya nagar, Kirti nagar, Indira nagar, and sectors also. There is Naya bazar having

shops such as electronic shops, furniture shops, grocery shops etc. Big shopping centres such as Sun City Mall in Housing board colony, Halwasia Mall near Halwasia Bal Vatika and Vishal Megs Mart and Jio Mart near Hansi gate gives typical urban look to Bhiwani. The city Bhiwani has both large scale and medium scale industries such as M/ S Technical Institute of Textile and Science, M/ S Bhiwani Textile Mills, M/S Hindustan Gum & Chemical Ltd., M/ S Elegant Spinner Bhiwani etc.

A. Demographic Profile of Respondents

From table 3 it is clear that age of majority of the respondents ranges between 35-40, 30-35 and 40-45. 37.14% respondents are male and 62.86% are female. Majority of the respondents i.e 62.86% are above post graduation. Regarding occupation of respondents, majority of the respondents i.e 62.86 % are teachers only small numbers are house wives, clerks and business man/ woman.

Table 3: Demographic Profile of Respondents

| Variable | Categories | No.of respondents |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Age | 30-35 | 13(18.58%) |
| | 35-40 | 20(28.58%) |
| | 40-45 | 13(18.58%) |
| | 45-50 | 10(14.27%) |
| | 50-60 | 9(12.85%) |
| | 60-65 | 5(7.14%) |
| Gender | Male | 26(37.14%) |
| | Female | 44(62.86%) |
| Education | Below matric | 4(5.72%) |
| | Up to matric | 8(11.42%) |
| | Graduation | 9(12.85%) |
| | Post graduation | 5(7.14%) |
| | Above Post Graduation | 44(62.86%) |
| Occupation | House wives | 8(11.42%) |
| | Retired | 5(7.15%) |
| | Teacher | 44(62.86%) |
| | Clerk | 9(12.85%) |
| | Business | 4(5.72%) |
| Caste | Jat | 22(31.42%) |
| | Arora | 2(2.85%) |
| | Kumhar | 3(4.28%) |
| | Baniya | 4(5.72%) |
| | Barahmin | 13(18.58%) |
| | Khati | 6(8.58%) |
| | Chamar | 9(12.85%) |
| | Dhanak | 5(7.15%) |
| | Yadav | 4(5.72%) |
| | Saini | 2(2.85%) |
| Total | | 70(100%) |

B. Frequency of rural visits

From Table 4 it is observed that 4 respondents visit their ancestral village once a week, 5 visit once every two month, 11 respondents visit once every 6 month, 13 respondents visit once a year and 37 respondents never visit because they have no connection with rural areas. It clear from this table that 37 respondents i.e 52.85% of total sample have no rural connections and 33 (47.15%) respondents have rural links. Those who visits once a week or once in every two month

have strong rural links while those who visits once a year have weak rural links. So total number of respondents who have rural connections are

Table 4: Frequency of Rural Visits

| Frequency | Number of Respondents |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Once a week | 4 (5.72%) |
| Once every 2 month | 5 (7.15%) |
| Once every 6 month | 11 (15.71%) |

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Once a year | 13 (18.57%) |
| Never | 37 (52.85%) |
| Total | 70 (100%) |

C. Caste wise distribution of rural links

As shown in Table 5 it is clear that out of 33 respondents who have rural connections, 22(66.66%) respondents belonging to Jat caste have more rural links as compared to other castes. Only 3(9.09%) respondents belonging to Brahman caste have rural links while other castes such as Baniya constitute 1(3.04%), Khati are 3(9.09%) and Dhanak are 4(12.12%).

Table 5: Caste Wise Distribution of Rural Links

| Caste | Number of Respondents |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Jaat | 22(66.66%) |
| Pandit | 3(9.09%) |
| Baniya | 1(3.04%) |
| Khati | 3(9.09%) |
| Dhanak | 4(12.12%) |
| Total | 33(100%) |

D. Reasons for Rural Links of those Respondents who have Rural Connections

Table 6 given below demonstrates the reasons for rural links. As shown in table it is clear that 17 respondents visit village because of their relatives.. Only one respondent visit villages for supervising agricultural land. 15 respondents visit villages for both relatives and agricultural purposes.

Table 6: Reasons for Rural Links

| Reasons for Rural Link | Number of Respondents |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Relatives | 17(24.29%) |
| Agricultural land | 1(1.43%) |
| Both | 15(21.42%) |
| No link | 37(52.86%) |
| Total | 70(100%) |

E. Agricultural and Non- Agricultural Sources of Income

Table 7 shows that 54 respondents have only non-agricultural sources of income and 16 respondents have both agricultural and non-agricultural sources of income.

Table 7: Sources of Income

| Source | No. of Respondents |
|--|--------------------|
| Only no.-agricultural | 54(77.14%) |
| Both agricultural and non-agricultural | 16(22.86%) |
| Total | 70(100%) |

III. CONCLUSION

Above observation shows that elements of ruralism coexist with elements of urbanism in urban areas. Most respondents belonging to Jat caste have more rural connections as compared to other castes such as Brahmin, Baniya, Arora, Khati etc. There exists variation in urbanism (way of life in urban areas) from one urban area to another urban area as the quantity of elements of ruralism vary in different urban areas. Rural – urban continuum is a scale that measures rural urban connection in qualitative

form. The quantity of rural urban connections vary from one urban area to another urban area. As Bhiwani city is not much urbanized as other cities of Haryana yet heading towards acquiring status of highly urbanized city in future. Rural connections of city dwellers depend on the kind of occupation pursued and education attained. Agricultural community such as Jat have generally more rural connections due to agricultural land in villages, but other castes are engaged mostly in non-farming activities so they have less rural connections.

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