

# **CHAPTER I**

## **CONCEPTS**

## **1. Place of Geography and Geographer in Urban Studies :**

The origin of the town or a city, is not an accident, there are some causes behind its growth, pattern and development. The Geographer studies the causes for the existence of urban settlement, its site and situation, its social-economic problems and its influence on the surrounding region and also on human beings.

Scientific interest in town is very old, Aurrouseau characterized a town as a place where transport, communication, manufacture, the import and export of raw materials, education, the administration, of National affairs are carried or quite simply, it is a place of residence.

The urban geographer today commonly, approaches his study considering either the geographical factors responsible for the development of urban centers globally or a part of it or; considers the morphology and structure in light of their historic evolution, growth and functions.

Although the geographer's contribution as town planner is invaluable his worth in the field of city planning and decision making is recognized just recently. In social surveys and regional town planning schemes it is found that the geographer is primarily concerned with the physical aspects of the city on which it rests. Sometimes it may be even assumed that though geographers can explain the effects of this physical ground plan in relation to the growth and character of the city, yet the investigation process is handled by economist, sociologist, historian, archeologist or architect.

Few geographers today hold that the environment determines the form and patterns of culture; most hold firmly the conviction that the most important environmental influence is man himself. Urban geography is thus concerned with the study of the economic base of cities, with interpretation of the relationships between the city as an important form of man's occupancy of the land and the activities within the city's hinterland or economically contributed area which focus upon the city and which give rise to urban occupancy.

Urban geographers focus distinctively on interpreting land use and occupancy patterns and relationships that exist in urban areas on one hand and non-urban areas in relation to urban areas on the other hand. Man has made the environment to serve his needs. But this is possible only when there is social and economic motivations.

To know the cultural framework urban geographers study the historical, social, economic and political background of the areas within which the cities are located.

Having concluded that the functions and forms of urban occupancy are to a large extent, within the control of man, the urban geographer should logically be concerned with describing and understanding the spatial frictions, existing in cities and inhibiting the fulfillment of the maximum social and economic potentialities of urbanism as a form of land occupancy and as a way of life.

There are however, numerous thorough studies of cities by geographers, which indicate closely, that urban geography has a well-established scope and special techniques. It seems necessary, therefore, to assess the contribution of geography to the study of the city as

revealed in such studies in order to indicate to the geographer the status of the subject and to suggest lines of future investigation.

The topic of my research work is based on highlighting all the characteristics of an urban area, a town, gradually undergoing evolution into a city. Thus it would be pertinent to explain, the entire concept, definition and characteristics in this process.

## **2. Scope of Urban studies and development :**

Urban geography cannot claim to be systematic study in the sense, that it is concerned with those processes which, in the context of a culture, operate to create spatial patterns.

Urban geography has tended, to concentrate on consequence, rather than process, though this tendency may perhaps be changing. Towns have always been of interest to the geographers who have dealt with them. Thus Strabo in his "Geography" was well aware of the importance of location, the natural advantage of a place which should always be mentioned, since they are permanent. \*1

To a large extent, developments, in urban geography mirrored those in geography as a whole. In 1915 Patrick Geddes had been forced to devise a term for these new growths and the word 'Conurbation' came into circulation. The simple growth plan, the main element of the morphological approach was increasingly shown to be inadequate. In the 1920s the Chicago School of Human Ecologists was already considering the variety of economic and social forces, which resulted in the segregation of urban land use. The attention of

geographers was thus directed towards the complexity of the townscape and away from the apparent simplicity of growth and general plan.

The employment of many geographers in town planning and the interaction between academic urban geography and the practical and applied spheres of planning provided an active stimulus to development. Commercial concerns began to realize the need for vigorous analysis before developments were started and the study of store location and market survey also impinged on methods of investigation in urban geography.

Urban geography has been developed by a large number of specialist workers engaged on particular aspects and at this stage, therefore, it became necessary to show that it formed a coherent field of study based on geographical principles of investigation

Mayer, in series of papers, outlined the main points on which geographers had concentrated and demonstrated, these as forming related parts of a coherent systematic study. Since the bulk of the population of the Western world lived in towns and the problems of the urban environment were paramount at the time, the importance of the study in academic geography and its relevance to applied geography needed no further stress.

### **3. What makes the Geographer take interest in Urban Studies?**

In social surveys and regional town planning schemes it is found that the geographer is primarily concerned with the physical aspects of the city on which it rests. Sometimes it may even be assumed that geographers can explain the effects of this physical ground plan in

relation to the growth and character of the city, even though economist, sociologist, historian, or architect handles the investigation process.

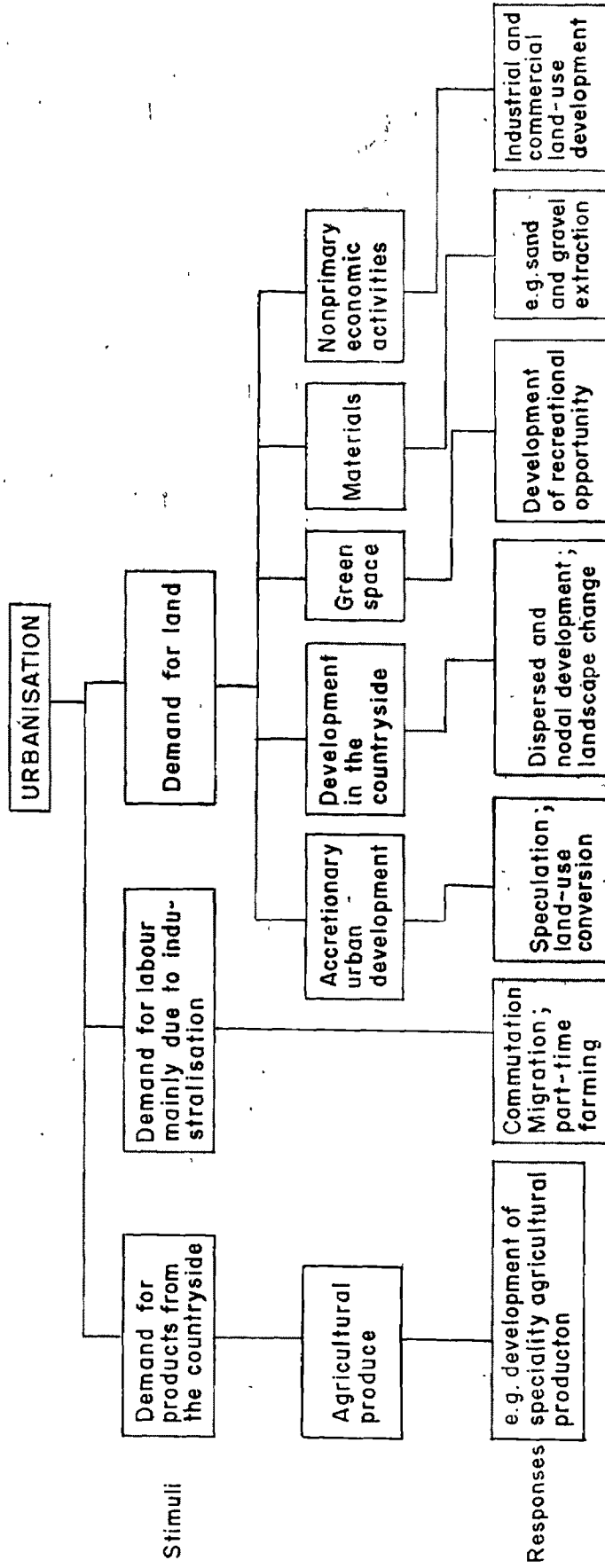
#### **4. In what way is the discipline of geography relevant to urban studies?**

Urban geography may be easily distinguished within geography by the phenomenon it studies – the town or city – but a further question is then raised on its distinctiveness vis – a – vis other social science disciplines which are also concerned with this same phenomenon.

Firstly, the question of defining urban geography as a branch of human geography can be considered in rather more detail. This idea of a branch or sub-discipline is important as it is indicative of the fact that the methodology which gives urban geography its distinctiveness in relation to other Social Sciences which study the same phenomenon – the city – is drawn from a wider disciplinary context. Urban geography attempts such description and interpretation for those parts of the earth's surface classified as urban places. \*2

The sentiment involved in this definition is undoubtedly correct. Human geography has the prime responsibility of defining purposes and methodologies; its sub disciplines or branches apply these to the specific phenomena, which form their focus of interest. As already recognized, urban geography has some particular problems in so far as its phenomenon is an area rather than a systematic theme. Figure (1.1) demonstrates its position between the specialized systematic branches of geography on the one hand and regional geography or area studies on the other. As indicated earlier, the danger of a Catholicity of

## FORCES OF URBANIZATION AND THE COUNTRYSIDE



Source: After Bryant, C. R. (1982: 7) (Fig 1.1)

interest associated with an area is present, but urban geography by narrowing down its mainstream research interests to a smaller number of themes, has ended to assume more of the character of a systematic study. Of relevance to this issue is Frey's (1973) discussion of the nature of study divisions within geography and his comparison of regional and systematic approaches. He suggests that the raw material of geography is formed of both single elements and assemblages and that these may be studied systematically by topic or regionally by area. As all data have initially to be collected from particular areas and all hypotheses have to be tested in specific areas, it follows that all geographical studies have both areal and systematic qualities and are; located along a line which at one, end is labelled 'area' and where the dominant purpose of study is to illuminate the region, and the other end labelled 'topic' where the study is very largely systematic and draws on one or a variety of regional examples merely for illustration.\*3

Within this framework and along this 'continuum', something of the position of urban geography can be understood. Its focus of study, the city, is an 'assemblage' which is also an 'area'; on both these considerations it holds affinities with regional geography. Its methodology, however, is typically focused on a small number of topical themes and could be more accurately described as systematic in character.

As a branch of human geography, urban geography must be defined within the context of a wider discipline and here Pattison's (1964) classification of the four traditions of geography – spatial, area, man land, and earth science – is useful. Of these the spatial tradition is firmly involved with interest in patterns, locations and spatial interactions, the



area tradition is also dominant with the focus on territory, regionalizations and the essence of place; and man-land has some relevance if it is translated into man –urban environment interaction. Only the earth science tradition has no effective role as urban studies have been contained within the development of human geography. A second context is shown by Figure (1.2), which relates urban geography to other social sciences interested in the analysis of cities. The common philosophical bases which urban geography shares with other social sciences are not presently being properly recognized and serve to emphasize the strong bonds which exists among different perspectives upon the city. The special qualities of urban geographical interest and the methodology employed to study these provide the subject with its distinctiveness but as at greater depth and see the city as the spatial manifestation of deeper – lying social forces, they are drawn into further contact with other disciplines and – for some purposes – towards the goal of a unified social science.\*4

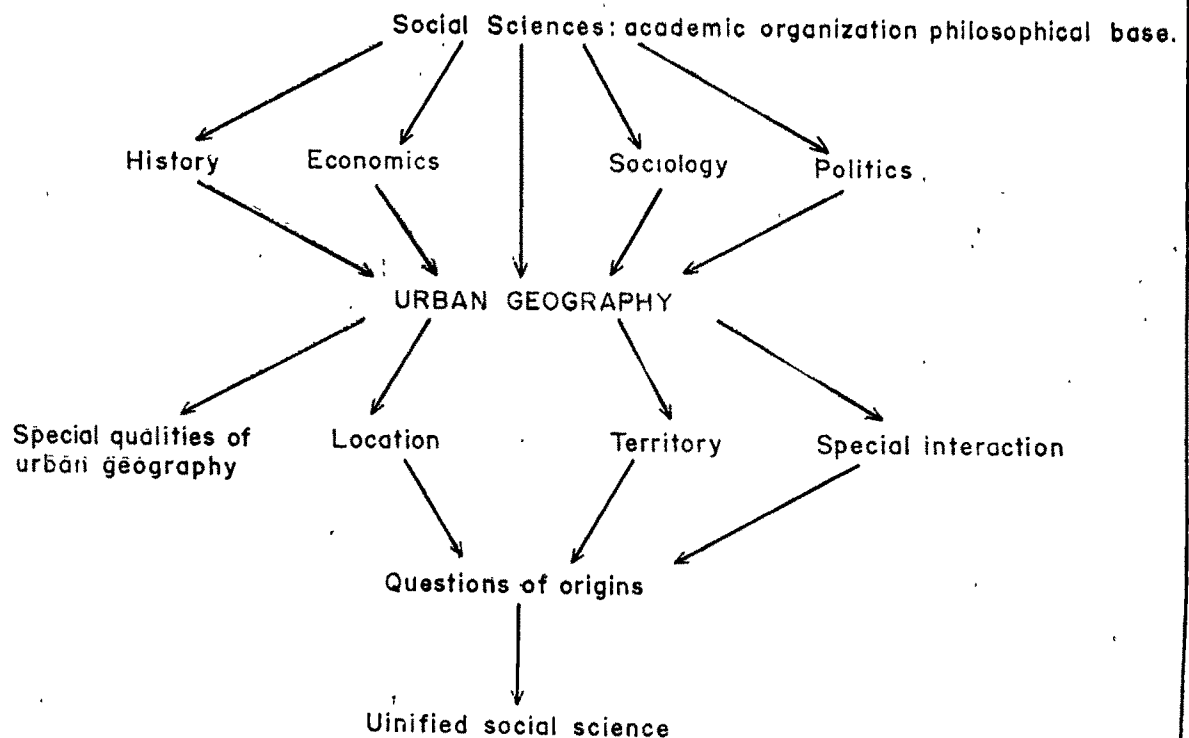
The definition offered for urban geography begs one further definitional question: What is urban? (Or) what constitutes an urban place? Whereas many people have intuitive and reasonably accurate answers to these a question, 'urban' remains an elusive concept to pin down with any degree of detail sizes and densities of settlements form two of the more common 'rule of the thumb' criteria and the former has been widely used in official statistical returns, such as national census, to designate particular places as urban.\*5

## URBAN GEOGRAPHY AS A SUBDISCIPLINE

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Topic	Field of Study						
	Geomorphology	Climatology	Historical Geography	Economic Geography	Social Geography	Urban Geography	Regional Geography
Earth Surface	///					?	///
Atmospheric Phenomena		///				?	///
Historical Development			///			///	///
Economic Activities				///		///	///
Social Institutions					///	///	///

## URBAN GEOGRAPHY AS A SOCIAL SCIENCE



After Herbert, D.T. & Thomas, C. J. (1982: 3 & 5) (Fig: 1-2)

### **5. Concept of the term City :**

A town or city is bigger than a village community, and if we are dealing with very large settlements there is often little doubt. But at the lower end of the scale, if size is the criterion, which is to say what the size of a town is? Different countries have different criteria to define a city. Clearly numbers alone mean very little. There are circumstances in which a numerically small settlement may have urban characteristics – like density, markets, administrative functions – and others in which a numerically large settlement may be a village in which the vast majority of men are farmers. The latter is certainly the case in agricultural states and in the developing countries. In India density as criterion is less important compared to function. Ofcourse even when we say town or city again what is the difference? Taking the line of least resistance we could say that a city is a town that has been designated a city on the basis of its size, growth rate, functions and influence on the surrounding area.

The words 'town' or 'city' may be used interchangeably to avoid resort to the clumsy phrase 'urban settlement'. The term 'city' has most general use. It designates a place with a minimum number of distinct functions, and in consequence a distinct type and grouping of building structure which distinguishes it from a cluster of farmsteads in a village settlement or some towns too.

The Latin term 'Civitas' is the common etymological root of civilization and city. It was originally used to describe the district of organization under the Roman Empire. It was

later transferred to the centre of a district or diocese in which the Christian bishopric was sited. In frame this nucleus became the 'Cite'. It is still so called and the term city is still popularly (though inaccurately) used in Britain to denote a town, with a Cathedral though there is no corresponding name, as an alternative to Stadt (town) in German. \*6

The term 'Civitas' was used in the documents of the early middle ages to describe a confused variety of urban settlements, but by the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, it began to be used with a more precise meaning. 'Civitas' has its equivalent in Ville in French, Stadt in German, town in English and 'Shahar' in Hindi. But it did not cover all settlements that were urban, as conditions of growth, are different between different areas. There is thus no consistent definition of a city. It is a town that enjoys a measure of leadership among towns. One may call the change from small to large town a continuum, but popular usage in all languages recognize a difference in functions and size between the hamlet, through the town to the metropolis.

In modern times, the great growth of urban population has created new centers, but it has more usually caused historic cities to expand greatly in population and area. Anand is the best example of such towns, which is in the making of its own kind. About 70% of the total population of the taluka concentrates within 10 km radius from Anand, which has a population of 1,31,104 (1991). Anand is a taluka headquarter and is the major collecting and distributing center not only at taluka levels, but at District, State, National and even International levels.

Anand as per its population qualifies itself to be classified as a city, though it may be lagging behind in some economic functions when compared to other big cities.

#### **6. Classification of Urban areas on the basis of Census of India :**

Urban areas are clearly defined for the purpose of Census. Urban areas comprise (a) Statutory towns and (b) Non – Municipal towns i.e. Census towns.

Statutory towns : All places with local authorities like Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Cantonments and Notified town areas are treated as Statutory towns.

Non – Municipal towns or Census towns: - All other places (except statutory towns) which satisfy the following three criteria viz.; (a) A minimum population of 5,000 (b) A density of population of atleast 400 persons per Sq.km. or 1000 per Sq.mile. (c) Atleast 75% of the male working population engaged in non- – agricultural and allied pursuits.

The three criteria specified above were strictly applied to all revenue villages based on the preceding Census data i.e. 1981 Census data and all revenue villages which satisfied the above criteria were declared as Census towns/or non – municipal towns for the purpose of census. In the 1981 and 1991 Censuses, industrial category III specifying activities like fishing, livestock, hunting, plantations and orchards, etc were treated at par with Cultivators and labourers for the purpose of the third criterion mentioned above. Thus, the third criterion was calculated with reference to the figures for working categories.

The above definition of urban area differs slightly from that of 1961 and 1971 Censuses, wherein activities such as fishing, livestock, hunting, plantations and orchards etc. were treated under non – agricultural activities.

The standard urban area concept was introduced in 1971, the essential requirement of the constitution of the same are as under:

It should have a core town with a minimum population of 50,000. The contiguous areas, made up of other urban as well as rural administrative units should have mutual socio-economic links with the core town; and in all probability, the entire area should get fully urbanized within a span of two or three decades.

The concept of urban agglomeration has also been adopted. An urban agglomeration may constitute –

- \* A city with continuous outgrowth. (The part of outgrowth being outside the statutory limits but falling within the boundaries of adjoining village or villages).

- \* One town with similar outgrowth or two or more adjoining towns with their outgrowths as mentioned earlier; or

A city and one or more adjoining towns with their outgrowths, all of which form a continuous spread.

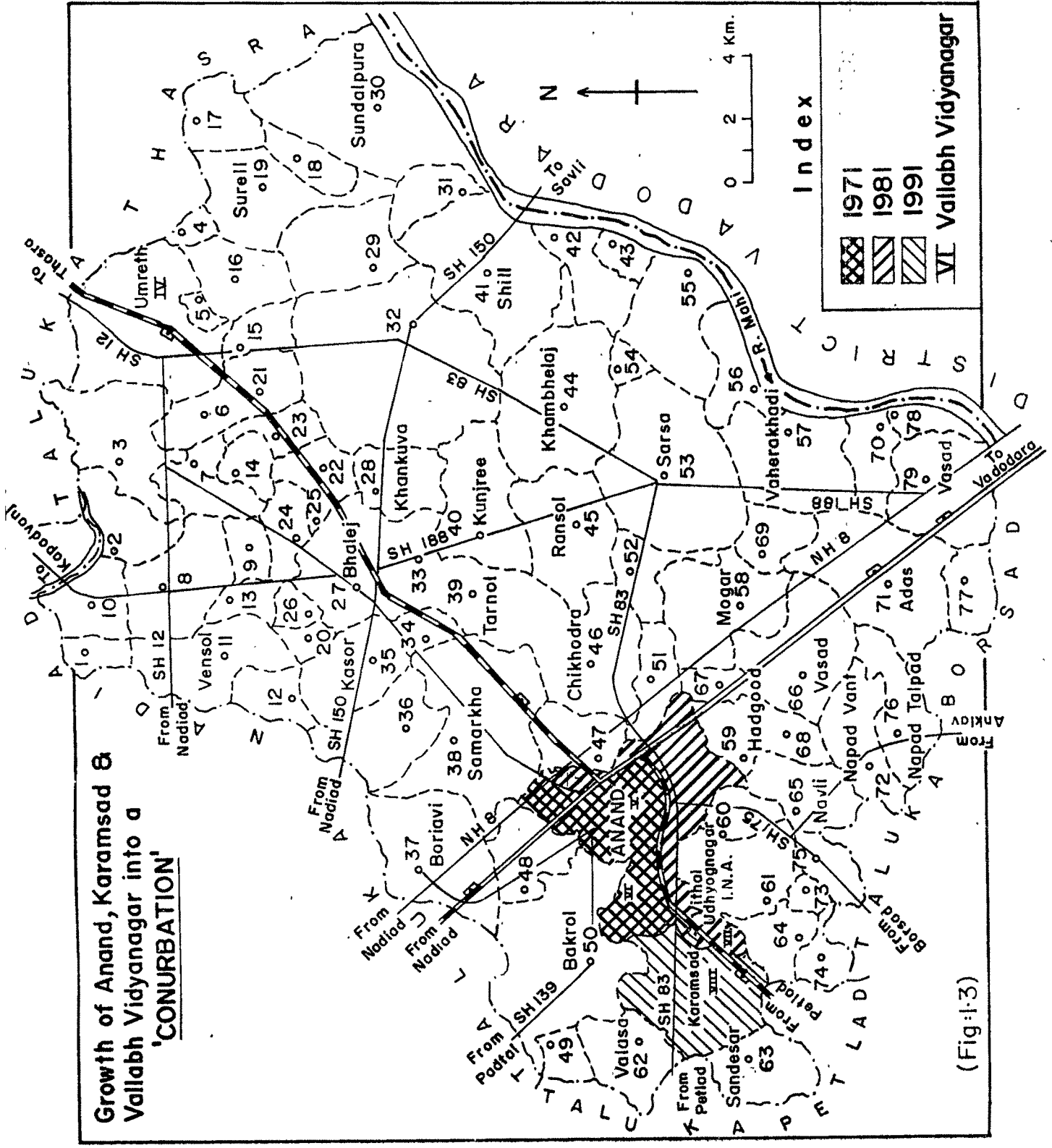
The geographer is not so much concerned with the analysis of particular service areas as it is the problem of marketing for which the economist is more qualified. The geographer is more concerned to the ways in which these relationships are reflected in the functional and physical structure of the town. Certain facts are outstanding as fixing the limits of the urban

areas. An area embracing several contiguous administrative districts was called by Patrick Geddes a 'Conurbation' (Fig: 1.3). This term however is inadequate for the geographer since by definition, is not generally applicable to all large urban settlements, more over it implies no minimum unit in area or population. Since the geographer is concerned primarily, with the urban settlements as an expression of man's activities on the earth's surface an alternative term is needed to include the whole built up area and the term urban tract is suggested like Unstead's definition of a tract in a present system of regional units.

#### **7. Hierarchy of Urban Settlements by population :**

Cities	Class I	a) Cities with 1 million and above
		b) Cities with 5,00,000 to 9,99,999.
		c) Cities with 1,00,000 to 4,99,999.
Medium Towns	Class II	50,000 to 99,999
	Class III	20,000 to 49,999.
Small Towns	Class IV	10,000 to 19,999
	Class V	5,000 to 9,000
	Class VI	less than 5,000. *7

# Growth of Anand, Karamsad & Vallabh Vidyanagar into a 'CONURBATION'



(Fig:1-3)



### **8. Urban growth and pattern :**

The dynamic growth of modern city is governed by two sets of forces, centrifugal – which impel functions to migrate from the central zone towards or sometimes even beyond, its periphery. An example of such a growth can be seen in Vallabh Vidyanagar an educational town; Vithal Udyognagar an industrial town adjacent to Anand immensely influenced by it. Secondly, centripetal forces that hold certain functions in the central zone attract population of other centres to it.

Inward migration of residential and manufactural functions for example, has featured the recent growth of Anand City, rail classification yards, warehouse facilities; cold storages etc have moved outward in many places. Inward movements in Anand and some other Indian cities are seen by the construction of multistoried apartment houses, in or near the historic core by the localization of headquarters of many firms in that zone and by trends in certain lines of retailing. A classical illustration of centripetal movement is offered by the gradual concentration of the commercial phases of dairy industries of Anand in the inner zone of the city.

In contrast to Western urbanization, the developing countries have a dramatic and rapid urban growth, coupled with high population growth and disproportionate scale of economies. “Higher rates of population growth and declining availability of agricultural land at low levels of rural income have increased population pressures in urban centres and absolute population movement towards them. At the same time, wide spread diffusion of modern

transport and communications encouraged population movement aided by the considerably cheap transportation facilities and costs" (Swamy 1987). However, the urban change and spatial urban expansion through varied process of urbanization have been major concerns and appraisals in developing countries, process and pattern in urbanisation vary from region to region or country to country. Difference may arise due to historical factors like British rule, Independence thereafter or white revolution as in the case of Anand etc.

Urbanisation may, also, be affected by forces outside the area like people migrated due to lack of job opportunities, famine, drought, lack of agricultural land etc. "The related impetus to manufacturing, commerce and administrative development associated with the war was also influential" ( Breeze : 1966:36 ).

Urbanisation is a component of regional economic development, as urban centres provide marketing for the agricultural surplus, products of cottage industries, including the supply of fertilizers, engineering goods, pumping set, medicines and specialized skills in a wide variety of situations which are necessary for regional development.

Urbanisation usually brings with it regional prosperity as the provision of infrastructure facilities stimulates the development of locally available resources, increasing regional income and employment levels.

"Besides, urban area also provides an arena for new political activities of urban, state and national levels; marketing of produce, diversification of occupations commercialization of agriculture and changes in consumption pattern" (Mandal and peters eds. 1982 : 2-3).

It is quite logical that, developmental activities cannot be dispersed horizontally throughout the region. "So the optimum location of development inputs and of services should be at specific places from which their benefits can filter down to the surrounding settlements.. (Rao, 1989). At the same time, the dynamics of regional economies, population growth, increasing employment in the tertiary sector, and the continuation of these processes for longer period of time and over increasing dimensions of space, are signs of regional development. Thus "urbanisation is a polarization technique which has been adopted for regional development" (Mandal and peters eds. 1982 : 2).

The operation of "ecological processes can be observed in the development of every urban area" (Breeze, 1966 : 108). So different components of ecological processes as concentration, centralization, decentralization, segregation, invasion, succession and routinization are to be thoroughly studied.

### **9. Fringe development :**

To understand the process of urban growth a clear idea of the growth of urban fringe or the potential extension area is essential. The limit of the town keeps on changing according to the physical growth of the town thus absorbing the fringe areas.

"The rural-urban fringe is the area of transition between well recognized urban land uses and the area devoted to agriculture. People may lead urban way of life far beyond the

city limits and may be still performing rural way of life in the political city" (Wehrwein : 1942).

Generally, the rate of fringe development of big cities is much higher than medium or small towns. Anand however does not show unusual growth in the fringe except along the major routes. The growth of Anand is linear along the roads in the fringe area like tentacles projecting from all directions. This type of growth is not uncommon in many settlements. In this regard Wehrwein (1942) feels that "city itself tends to follow the lines of transportation". In fact, the improvement of road transport and other infrastructure have led to the expansion of Anand in the fringe and its development. The fringe acquires prominence, as it is the zone where the process of urbanization for spatial organization is operating. This is partly due to the natural process of urban sprawl and partly it is the outcome of planned efforts to decongest the town. Another factor that is responsible for the development of fringe area is the development of conurbation due to the outgrowths, new towns and satellite towns like Vallabh Vidyanagar which is just 5 km from Anand. While the influence of Anand on the industrial town of Vithal Udyognagar cannot be denied.

Growth and development of the fringe undergoes certain stages. Transformation and absorption of the fringe area into the urban fold is a manifestation seen in all parts of the world, more so with recent rapid urbanization. Similarly the rural landscape around the town undergoes a process of transformation and does not remain static.

The peripheral settlements are inseparable from the adjoining urban centres. Smailes has remarked that town grows by addition of new tissues, i.e. there is a constant influx of

new territory within the urban compass. Patric Geddes called the fringe development as 'polypus' rather than 'octopus'. The future prospects of the city depend on this belt, where process of urbanization has already commenced.

Because of the high-speed automobile and high-speed highways larger rural areas have been placed within easy commuting distance of urban jobs. The jobs themselves have been moving from the centre of the cities towards its edges and it has helped rapid development of fringe areas.

City people who desire new inexpensive houses can find them in the periphery and the population increases more rapidly in the fringe area/zone than in the city proper. The fringe development is also due to restrictions on the vertical development of the core areas. The inadequate provision of urban infrastructure and civic amenities also contribute to the emergence of urban fringe. Haphazard and unregulated growth, overcrowding, slums, and ribbon development, with traffic problems, unhygienic conditions and chaotic use of land mark this area. The city is at a disadvantage because people living in the fringe, use its services and amenities freely without paying anything for it, so a fringe is a place of tax dodgers. Anand municipality faces similar problem where the outside commuters, migrants and those in the fringe are as much in number as its population, utilizing the services and amenities free of cost.

Industries that were located in the congested area of Anand are shifting to the fringe often selling the site at low price. Speculators resell these sites, at a high price for

commercial and other uses. The purpose of the present analysis is to study the pattern of evolution of the urban fringe, its limits and other characteristics in the context of Anand City.

The morphological analysis of Anand shows that it is nuclei in which urban growth has rapidly spread after the white revolution as well as establishment of the educational and industrial towns namely Vallabh Vidyanagar and Vithal Udyognagar respectively near its fringe area.

From the above discussion, it may be concluded that the process of diffusion of urban characteristics was under progress and still continuing in the fringe area projecting urbanized land use but not uniformly. There lies a great variation in population growth (by natural increase or by migration) from area to area depending upon different infrastructural facilities, topography, social environment, land value, people's fascination for place etc. and accordingly future trend of population growth follows. From the study it is evident that in some areas developmental work started earlier and the landscape changed, especially along the major transport lines.

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