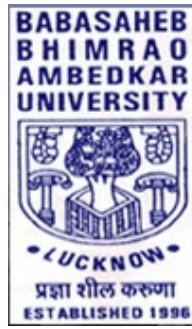


**“RURAL URBAN INTERFACE AND FORMATION
OF PERI-URBAN AREAS: A SOCIOLOGICAL
STUDY OF LUCKNOW CITY”**

Abstract of the Thesis

submitted to

Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow



For the award of the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In

SOCIOLOGY

Under the Supervision of

Dr. Manish K. Verma
Associate Professor

Submitted By

Sandeep Kumar
Enrollment No.290/08

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SCHOOL FOR AMBEDKAR STUDIES

BABASAHEB BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY

(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)

VIDYA VIHAR, RAEBARELI ROAD
LUCKNOW (U.P.) – 226025, INDIA

2015

ABSTRACT

Urban sprawl is a natural phenomenon accompanying rapid urban growth. The rapidly growing urban population in the large cities and high rate of migration spills into the rural areas surrounding the city boundaries. The settlement of the urban people into the surrounding areas and location of economic activities like factories, amusement parks, commercial complexes etc. gradually brings about a change in the land use pattern in the rural areas. This gives rise to the problem of rural-urban fringe, which is a transition zone between urban and rural settlement sharing the features of both.

The present study is confined to Lucknow city. In the peripheral area of the city there are a number of 'Ruurban Centres'. The immediate ring of peri-urban areas surrounding Lucknow city are Chinhat, Ismailganj, Bakshi-ka-Talab, Mohana, Nigona, Malihabad, Sarojani Nagar, Banthras, utratia, Mohanlalganj and Gosainganj. The study conducts in four blocks of the Lucknow city periphery. These blocks surrounds Lucknow city and are approximately 20-27 kms away from the city centre and represent the peri-urban areas of Lucknow. All these areas of Lucknow periphery are administrated by a single authority and thus become difficult to properly plan and execute development initiatives. As these peri-urban areas are centre of inter-mixing of rural and urban cultures and focal point of socio-cultural, political, religious and environmental turmoil, it becomes centre of great interest and research for the scholars and academicians.

Introduction

The rural-urban interface is the most dynamic spatial feature of a mega city. The transition that the interface offers of due to urbanization is as much an impact as it results in growth. Urbanization result in transformation of land use, environment and culture of communities, specifically, in the interface and there-by, change the attire of the city-regions ecology. The interface is a territory of urbanizing village with different intensities and different scales of urbanization. The process leads to the formation of 'urban villages', which, unlike the western realities, often turns into slums. Blizzard also opines about the rural-urban fringe. "It is that area of mixed urban and rural land uses between the point where full city services cease to be available and the point where agricultural land uses predominate". According to Douglas (2006) "A peri-urban area (a specific and non-neutral space) refer to a transition or interaction zone, where urban

and rural activities are juxtaposed, and landscape features are subject to rapid modification induced by human activities."Simon, (2006) described that a peri-urban area is not only a zone of direct impact experiencing the immediate impacts of land demands from urban growth and pollution but is also a wide market related zone of influence that is recognizable in terms of the handling of agricultural and natural resource product. Commonly known as rural-urban fringe a peri-urban, the rural-urban interface is the territory in transition, spatially located on the urban periphery. Rural-urban fringes in India may be defined as per Ramchandran (1989) view. According to him, "The rural-urban fringe is an area of mixed rural and urban population and land use. This begins at the point where agricultural land use appears near the city and extends up to the point where village have distinct urban land use or where some persons, at least, form the village community commute to the city daily for work or other purposes".

In this way we can say that peri-urban areas are outside formal urban boundaries and urban jurisdictions which are in a process of urbanization and which therefore progressively assume many of the characteristics of urban areas. Peri-urban areas can be defined as areas having all or some of the following interrelated characteristics:

- Fast and unplanned growth resulting in, amongst other things, negative environmental health issues and environmental degradation.
- Jurisdiction is unclear or duplicated in matters of planning, land transfer.
- Tenure of residents is not always based on clearly defined and enforceable title.
- Planning and building guidelines and regulations, the Rating Act, and provision of urban services are not applied.
- Service infrastructure does not fulfill basic need.
- A significant proportion of residents are in lower income categories.
- Unplanned settlements to cater to the growing rental market, the rental market alone catering to demand.

On the basis of above discussion, we can safely conclude that the peri-urban area is centre of great attention for scholars due to its specific characteristics. It has varied culture, land-use patterns and socio-economic distinctions. It is generally multi-cultural, multi-ethnic interface which largely remains responsible for inward migration of people from rural areas. It provides shelter to the rural job seeker migrants. Due to the centre of multi-facet activities, it has specific

problems also. Peri-urban interface, the zone where urban and rural areas meet, has the centre of great attention by the researchers, planners as well as academicians due to its explicit tribulations such as socio-cultural turmoil, problem of rapid urbanization inducing intense pressure on scarcely available resources, slum formation, lack of adequate services such as water, sanitation and transportation, poor planning and degradation of lives of millions of people. The inhabitants of the peri-urban area face unique problems which require distinct and innovative approach for its comprehensive understanding and fruitful solutions.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To identifying and map the peri-urban area of Luck now city.
2. To probe into the relationship between urban sprawl and the socio- economic transformation of dweller of the city.
3. The environmental implications of urbanization and migration into the peri-urban area.
4. To study the process of peri-urban development
5. To study the problems associated with peri-urban areas such as creation of poverty and slums.
6. To study the socio-economic interaction paten between the communities in city and fringe areas.
7. The study tried to focus on the specific socio-cultural characteristics of the inhabitants of peri-urban area as well as their psychological bent of mind.
8. The study tried to chalk out the opportunities and challenges prevailing in peri-urban area vis-à-vis the migrants.
9. Lastly, the impact of various government policies concerned with the planning and development of peri-urban areas evaluated in the research work.

Methodology

1. Research Design

This study is descriptive in nature. The major goal of a descriptive research is to describe the events, phenomena and situations. Since description is made on the basis of scientific observation, it is expected to be more accurate and precise than casual (Ahuja, 2013:131). Descriptive research is a fact-finding operation searching for adequate information. It is a survey study, which is generally conducted to assess the opinion, behaviors or characteristics of a given

population to describe the situation and events occurring at present. Descriptive research is a process of accumulating facts (Wolf and Pant, 2003:81).

2. Universe of the Study

The universe of the study is Peri-Urban areas of Lucknow city. The immediate ring of peri urban areas surrounding Lucknow city are Chinhat, Bakshi Ka Talab, Mohana, Nigonha, Malihabad, Sarojni Nagar, Banthara, Ismailganj, Utratia, Mohanlal Ganj, and Gosainganj.

3. Respondents of the Study

Sampling Plan

Lucknow city has been selected, In order to assess the rural urban interface and development of peri-urban areas in Lucknow city, 8 villages were selected under the study. The swift growth of population and incorporation of fringe areas in to the city boundaries has introduced a wave of change in social structures of the peri-urban Lucknow. To study the social, ecological and environmental matrix of the peri-urban area, the Lucknow city is divided into four parts, cutting it vertically and horizontally. To derive homogenous information, four blocks are selected from all the four corners of Lucknow city, namely Mohanlalganj, Kakori, Bakshi-ka-Talab and Chinhat. Further, two villages each are selected from all the four blocks i.e. eight villages in total are selected for sampling purpose. These villages are, Harkansgarhi and Pursaini in Mohanlalganj block, Kathwara and Hardhaurpur located in Kakori block, Bajnagar and Sikrauri situated in Bakshi-ka-Talab block and lastly, Uttardhauna and Tiwariganj falling in Chinhat block. All these peri-urban villages are located within 8 to 25 kms radius from the city centre i.e. Hazratganj. These villages are comparatively large villages and have good connectivity with the Lucknow city which ensures closer interface of villagers and urban dwellers. This has led the greater influence of urban culture, life style and economic activities. The villages have mainly traditional social structure with social cohesion and harmony.

The quantitative and qualitative socio-structural data has been collected from the field work based on the interaction with the people of peri-urban areas. For 125 each respondent has been studied from the four blocks under study on the basis of Stratified Random Sampling. That means, total 500 respondents have been interviewed for collection of primary data with the use of Interview Schedule. Collected data has been processed by the use of statistical method by using SPSS.

Focused Group Discussion was also held during the time of field survey to derive comprehensive picture of the situation. Finally, table has been used to draw conclusions.

Required secondary data has been collected from the various published and unpublished journals, books, reports, thesis and so others.

Chapterization of the Thesis

The comprehensive research on peri-urban interface will be having seven chapters in toto. The **first chapter** is "**Introduction**". This chapter begins with a brief introduction of the peri-urban area, the salient features of the pertinent literature reviews, its importance, objectives and problems of the Lucknow peri-urban area. The **second chapter** is "**Per-Urban Lucknow: Social Structure and Background of the Community**". In this chapter, the research focuses on the historical setting of the peri-urban Lucknow. The main highlighted area of discussion is background of the communities, details of the head of the household and sample undertaken, family structure and an sketch of the locality/ region where they are residing such as educational facilities, hospitals, means of communication, road, electricity, schools and colleges, potable water, housing, greenery, parks etc.

The **third chapter** is, "**Per-Urban Lucknow: Socio-economic and Political Aspects**". This chapter provides a brief account of socio-economic condition of the peri-urban Lucknow. The relation between peoples on the basis of caste, creed, religion and region is the prime area of interest. Dominant caste, if any and dominant political trends has also been evaluated. Attention is given to decipher, if there is any nexus between caste, politics and religion.

The **fourth chapter** is "**Peri-Urban Lucknow: Cultural and Psychological Aspect**". This chapter delves deep into the findings of the study pertaining to cultural matrix such as norms, values, folkways, mores, festivals, customs, traditions, rites-de-passages, generation gap etc. Psychological factors such as cause of migration in terms of push and pull factors, creation of 'reference group' and imitation of behavior of the dominant sections of the society is the prime area of interest of the chapter.

The **fifth chapter** is "**Peri-Urban Lucknow: Environmental and Health Aspect**". This chapter focuses on existing environmental and health issues, surrounding the periphery of the Lucknow. On the account of, this chapter will give the environmental implication of urbanization to identify the health problems and migration into the peri-urban area.

The **sixth chapter** is "**Impact of Government Policies on Peri-Urban Lucknow**". This chapter covers various government policies and schemes run during last decade and consequently the level of development in the peri-urban area.

Finally the seventh chapter is "**Summary of findings**". The chapter will try to summarize the main findings of the research and provide policy level suggestion to rectify the inherent weaknesses of the peri-urban Lucknow and also suggest some remedial measure to improve existing socio-economic, ecological and environmental situation.

Summary

The introduction of urban social and cultural values along with economic and political advances in hitherto rural societies results in the emergence of an interface between rural and urban social structures in peri-urban villages. The interface (rural and urban) resulting from the increased influence of urbanization in rural society may result in the appearance of peculiar social and cultural structures. The increased exposure to urban features among rural inhabitants leads to changes in their lifestyle patterns as well as livelihood strategies. Simultaneously, the emergence of peri-urban areas as a relatively environmental calm and economically vibrant geographical zones results in the influx of people from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds in to the peri-urban villages. Changes in economic activity bases and shifting land use pattern in turn result in changes in environmental set up and necessarily indicate transformation in ecological balance of the region. The urban features of air, water and noise pollution are visible in the area. The exposure to increased pollution levels results in increased health related hazards among the inhabitants of the region. The infrastructure is still absent and the civic amenities remain inadequate to accommodate changes in population composition and size. The policies and programmers for the holistic and sustainable development of the area are still not in the priorities of the planners and policy makers. There remains a policy vacuum in peri-urban area development. Furthermore, the existing policies and programmers for the welfare of the people and development of the area fail to satisfy the aspirations of the people. Land has been identified as a function of virtually all forms of production. Land is required for various uses in both the urban and rural areas

of all society. As nations grow in size and rural areas become urban centers and gradually to large metropolitan areas, there is always increased demand for land for different purposes. This requires adequate planning and control to ensure harmonious development and functional efficiency of these uses and settlements. The Rural-Urban Fringe of Lucknow City can be taken as a core area of urban influence within the region which is getting rapidly urbanized. This area is served by the city-based essential services, such as transport, water supply, health care, education, retailing and credit facilities. This is the area of direct participation in key city functions and amenities for this reason it has been designated as the Lucknow Metropolitan Region may be treated as primary planning area for metropolis. Government Intervention is often required to guide urban development for achieving an orderly development of the different areas of the city so as to improve the quality of the city and the standard of life of the people. The process of urbanization operating in the fringe has given rise to typical land use associations where the contemporary and dynamic land use pattern is developing side by side in the contemporary context, the various land uses. Urbanization has improved and diversified the livelihood situation in rural areas. Much of this diversification is explained by increasing opportunities for commuting to the city. These opportunities are intensively used by the local population, mainly for government employment and other formal and informal work in the service sector. Other new ways to earn an income are linked with the emerging economic activity in and around the villages. Combined with the added value derived from transporting agricultural produce to the city, this brings good revenues for enterprising farmers. Similarly, dairy farming is an increasingly commercial 'rural' source of income in rural-urban fringe villages. The uses are too diverse, and the owners have many different possibilities to take advantage of the land. Besides, the livelihood situation in the rural urban fringe is very dynamic, offering a wide variety of income-generation possibilities. As the empirical research demonstrates, the local population generally benefits from urbanization of land in terms of providing a better household income position. Occasionally an owner or other user of land is confronted with the disadvantages of urbanization, which causes at least agricultural income to decline. The living conditions of the villagers are improving in terms of civic amenities, housing conditions and infrastructure. But there are also evident negative consequences of urbanization for the conditions in which residents live and work. Congestion, pollution and stress on amenities are present to varying degrees. The situation is not very serious for villages in the rural-urban fringe. However, in some of the urban villages, the dense mix of industrial land use with residential areas

poses a threat to health. The labour-class migrants living in slums, at or near the industrial sites, or in crowded conditions in the original village settlement, are more vulnerable than the original village population. Land use, land-use changes, and the physical condition of the land are closely related to the livelihood of the villagers residing in the rural-urban fringe. In rural areas, land degradation is mentioned frequently in relation to environmental concerns. In a rural-urban fringe, the deterioration of physical conditions such as soil, water and vegetation does not always reflect a decline of use to its users. The most common urban land uses are for built-up areas including residential areas, industrial and storage sites, and commercial land use, infrastructure e.g., roads, sanitary landfills, brick kilns, farmhouses and vacant lots. The usual rural land uses are for agricultural, horticulture/floriculture, orchards, common land, and forests. Within the category of agricultural land use, the incentive created by the expanding markets in city results in an intensification of agriculture at many places. Due to increasing levels of urbanization, the villages can offer local residents more and more income- and employment opportunities. This is mainly the result of better linkages to the city. Meanwhile, income and employment opportunities expand locally as well. There is a general shift of occupations away from agricultural to typical urban activities. White-collar jobs are becoming increasingly common among the villagers, with the improvement of education and urban connections. These jobs include clerical positions, bank employees, higher staff, police officers, and teachers. The availability of government positions declined in the 1990s. The haphazard development of slums, unauthorized colonies, piecemeal commercial development, intermixes of conforming and non-conforming uses of land coupled with inadequate services and facilities have become common features in the fringe. The dynamic change from rural to urban land use is so fast that the resultant need and complex uses coupled with shortage of land have led to the speculation and increase in land values.

Major Findings

Background of the Peri-urban Lucknow Region

Lucknow is the capital of the state of Uttar Pradesh and a second largest city after Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. It is situated about 500 km southeast of New Delhi in the heart of the state. This metro city is the administrative headquarters of Lucknow District and Lucknow Division. Lucknow has always been known as a multicultural city, and flourished as a cultural and artistic capital of North India in the 18th and 19th centuries. Hindi is the city's official language. However,

the most prominent language spoken in Lucknow is the Hindi-Urdu language. The political decision to industrialize Uttar Pradesh led to the expansion of bureaucratic machinery in Lucknow which in turn resulted in a boom in construction activity and population influx. As a consequence of this urban sprawl, rapid development has taken place in these fringe areas. In such circumstances, these rural areas have undergone massive changes in their social, political, economic and ecological set-up. The social, occupational, demographic and infrastructural aspects of the peri-urban society have seen massive transformation. The city has seen a steady increase in the population arising from natural growth, the incorporation of peri-urban areas in the 1980's and migration.

In the peripheral area of the city there are a number of 'rurban centres'. The immediate ring of peri-urban areas surrounding Lucknow district are Chinhat, Ismileganj Bakshi-ka-Talab, Mohana, Nigona, Malihabad, Sarojani Nagar, Banthras, Utratia, Mohanlalganj and Gosainganj. The study is conducted in four blocks of the Lucknow periphery. These blocks surrounds Lucknow city and are approximately 20-27 kms away from the city centre and represent the peri-urban areas of Lucknow. All these areas of Lucknow periphery are administrated by a single authority and thus become difficult to properly plan and execute development initiatives. As these peri-urban areas are centre of inter-mixing of rural and urban cultures and focal point of socio-cultural, political, religious and environmental turmoil, it becomes centre of great interest and research for the scholars and academicians.

Social Structure and Background of the Community

To deduce social structure and background of the communities residing in these peri-urban areas, their geographical setting, caste composition, literacy rate, pattern and facilities of education, availability of civic amenities like hospitals, water, roads, drainage, shops, sanitation etc. are taken into consideration. While analysing the caste structure of the villages, it has been evident that Scheduled Castes represent a sizeable section of the population of all the hamlets, however, these castes also form majority among the BPL households in many of the villages. The other castes which have a significant presence in the villages are Other Backward Castes(OBC's). General category and Muslims in minority have also been residing in the area but they represent small sections of the total population. Overall, all the village have varied caste composition represented in traditional caste hierarchy, like a typical Indian rural society, along with a section of

minority community. The impact of urbanization is observed in all the villages which has lessened caste based discrimination. The geographical location of most of the families in the villages are spread across and is having no bearing on their caste belongingness. This suggests that inhabitants in the peri-urban areas are living like a homogenous group.

To analyse the educational and healthcare infrastructure of the study villages. It has been observed that most of the villages have elementary schools established by the government but the capacity of these schools to accommodate the increasing number of students due to increasing population seems inadequate. Further, the facilities for secondary and higher education are extremely limited and require immediate expansion by the government in order to cater to the needs of increasing population and population density. However there have been some private educational institutions at all levels. The healthcare infrastructure of the area also seems inadequate to fulfill the needs of such large populations. There are government health centres in all the villages but the infrastructure available and the availability of trained doctors falls short of the requirements. Nevertheless, some facilities for alternative medicinal practices (i.e. Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathic etc.) have been arranged by the government and the presence of private healthcare facilities attempt to bridge the demand-supply gap in the healthcare sector.

The infrastructural facilities of the communities such as roads and drainage systems are in the process of expansion. Almost all the village have cemented roads but these roads require expansion and maintenance to provide all weather connectivity to the villages. The drainage systems of all the villages are also not in adequate condition and need reconstruction and regular maintenance so as to maintain sanitation and hygiene standards in the peri-urban villages. The natural sources of water such as well, ponds and lakes are receding in number in almost all the villages. However, the facilities of hand pumps have increased which implies that these villages have access to clean water. The market and shops in all the villages provide a glimpse of a traditional rural bazaar catering only day-to-day needs of the inhabitants. It is supplemented by weekly markets which form the major source for access to consumer products for these areas.

Socio-Economic Factors and Political Aspects

Social Structure and Change

Peri-urban area is characterized to be in a transition state. The social aspects of peri-urban Lucknow are also in a state of flux. The system of caste domination persists in the region though

not so rigid in form. The influence of caste in terms of dispute resolution seems to have declined. But still caste system plays an important role in deciding the identity of an individual and a family in the social milieu of fringe areas. However, various institutions which were based directly on caste considerations seem to have little value in changing scenario. It is slowly and gradually ebbing and fading as the prominent factor deciding human relationship in peri-urban region. The residents of the zone under consideration are increasingly becoming aware of the need for social harmony. Thus, on the occasions of ceremonial gatherings in a family, by and large, people of diverse social and caste backgrounds are being invited by the residents of peri-urban zone and hence maintain social harmony.

Migration aspect of the community in peri-urban areas of lucknow city, reinforces and consolidates the process of change, as migrants bring with them a new set of social and cultural outlook. In the analysis of peri-urban Lucknow region, approximately 12.80% of the residents are found to be migrants. People are migrating to interface zone from both rural and urban areas. However, the majority of migrants hail from rural areas. The rural shifted to peri-urban areas due to various pull factors such as better occupational opportunities, educational facilities for children, low cost land, comfortable life style, improved health and sanitation facilities and nearness to the city than rural areas. Nevertheless, migration could not able to diminish the traditional beliefs and practices and as such, the migrants largely retain their traditional cultural and religious activities intact. The analysis of the findings reflects that both the original natives of the region and also those who have settled here migrating from different places largely feel safe and secure. This may be a major reason behind unhindered religious propitiation of migrants in the zone. However, a small section of the population affirmed problem of adjustment in the new environment due to a variety of reasons such as unfriendly neighbors, increasing instances of crime like theft, burglary, chain snatching, etc.

Social Aspects

The social and community networks which provide assistance in times of emergencies have a strong presence in the area. The sense of belongingness and helping friends, neighbors and relatives on the stipulation of crises and emergency is still prevailing in the zone. Respect conferred to elders and conformity to their authority on crucial decisions of the lives of a person such as marriages etc. are still intact. Marriages in peri-urban zone are largely based on arranged

type with the involvement of elders and family members. The trend of love marriage is yet not very visible and admissible. Therefore, it can be safely concluded that traditional social values and beliefs, which characterize the typical rural social structure, do not show much change in the wake of growing urban influence.

- Only a small proportion of respondents reported that their family members are participating in politics. The participation has been reported in form of campaigning in Panchayat election, participating in political meeting and rallies.
- Only a small proportion of respondents reported that Caste Panchayats exist in the village and they are dealing the issues of family matters and marriages. Most of the respondents reported that they are resolving their problems with the consultation of Village Pradhan and other influential persons. Only a small proportion of respondents reported that they are contacting police for resolving their problems.
- Majority of the respondents revealed that women are participating in household work and agricultural operations. They are also participating in important decisions of the family. However, about half of the respondents accepted that violence against women is prevailing in the family.
- More than half of the respondents reported that they are giving priority of education for their children in cities. However, majority of the respondents accepted that they are sending their wards for education to the village schools. They are also accepted that drug addiction among children is increasing due to contact with other children and peer pressure.
- Majority of the respondents revealed that they are preferred arrange marriage. Moreover, 3/4th respondents revealed that their marital relations are in the rural areas.
- Majority of the respondents reported that they are participating in the festival, marriage and other ceremonial functions of the villagers. They also invite others for participating in these ceremonial functions. They further revealed that their neighbours, relatives and friends do help in the time of need. They have cordial relations with their neighbours. Majority of the respondents reported that they are living in their domicile place and thus, about 13 per cent respondents accepted that they have migrated from other areas to settle there. The main reasons were reported to be service, business, education of children and other factors.

On the account of this we can say very safely, the peri-urban Lucknow, the interface zone under transition, reflects the simultaneous coexistence of both rural and urban social structures. The traditional rural social system is still dominant in important ways; nevertheless the urban social matrix increasingly attracts peri-urban residents with the promise of a different and better quality of lifestyle.

Political Aspects

The political scenario of the peri-urban Lucknow region witnesses a wave of dynamism. The traditional structure of caste dominance in politics remains even in the changing times. However, the reasons for dominance of certain castes in political arena have changed from numerical strength as the prominent reason. The educationally and economically empowered castes are dominating the politics in the region. Contemporary time has witnessed changes in the rural political dominance and a majority of 57.4% of the residents admits this having experienced transformation in political behavior. This subtle change is also evident from the increasing participation of lower castes in political decisions. Increased awareness and consciousness among the people about their political rights can be the main attribute with regard to amend in political dominance. Reservation in Panchayat elections has played a catalyst role in triggering such caste based political mobility.

Residents of the region have changed their voting strategy in recent times. They have become more aware of the value of their votes. It is reflected from the shift in criteria of casting votes in Gram Panchayat level elections. A majority of 50.4% households in the area exclaimed having voted under consideration for social welfare and overall development of the village and nearby locality. However, a small section of the population is still not able to break through the temptations and cast their vote for some instant monetary considerations or due to pressure from caste groups. The parameters of casting vote to candidates largely remain unchanged in Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Political mobility in the area seem to be widespread as 40.4% of the households responded that they change their voting pattern, if the previously elected candidates did not deliver to the promises made to them. In the wake of such changes, the political leaders of different political parties are also paying attention to their constituencies. In the analysis 66% of

the households admitted that national and state level political leader's campaign for Panchayat elections in their area. However, the people in general do not play active role in politics by joining political party and doing campaigns.

The caste has dominating role in the village politics. The villagers reported that OBCs and General Caste are playing dominating role in the village politics. More than half of the respondents reported that there has been significant change in rural political dominance in the recent past. The main reason of such change has been educational development and increasing political consciousness. Less than 1/4th respondents reported that they or their family members participated in politics. The participation in politics has been reported in form of participation in rally, campaigning in the Panchayat elections and social mobilization in favour of candidates.

We can say broadly that, the caste based justice system of Jati Panchayat has existence in the area, and very few people seek their help in times of need. The people of peri-urban Lucknow region are increasingly resorting to the assistance of constitutional bodies in the matters of dispute resolution.

Economic Aspects

Economically the zone of peri-urban Lucknow reflects a diverse and dynamic occupational and income patterns. While analyzing the monthly income of the residents, it is found that majority of the respondents have monthly income in the range of Rs. 1000- 5000 per month. However, there are variations in income groups and a small number of people fall in the income groups of even above Rs. 50,000 per month. From the data, the economic disparities prevailing in the peri-urban communities can easily be deciphered. It corresponds to the presence of affluent urban dwellers and poor migrants arriving from rural areas in search of better economic opportunities along with native dwellers. A deeper analysis of the borrowing patterns of the residents of peri-urban Lucknow reveals two broader reasons. First, it happens mostly for productive purposes such as business, asset creation like construction of houses, procurement of agricultural land and other such activities related to the development of individual as well as society. The second category includes borrowing for meeting consumption requirements such as daily needs, education and marriage of children, health related treatment at times of illness, celebration of festivals and other such occasions of customary importance. The cross caste analysis of the purpose for raising loans shows that that the upper castes residents borrow mainly for productive purposes such as home construction, business and agriculture. While Scheduled Caste people borrow mostly for marriage

purposes. It is an indication of economic backwardness of these castes and their vulnerable status in changing times.

Most of the households were found living in good financial health as more than 84 per cent reported that they have not taken loans. Those who have received loans reported that they have received loans mainly from banks and for the agriculture, construction of house, treatment of diseases and marriage. They reported that they are paying their loan regularly. More than half of the households reported that they have agricultural land besides a segment of the households reported that they have non-agricultural land. The villagers reported that they are growing major crops including commercial crops for enhancing their earnings.

The analysis of changes in land use patterns reveals that around 26.80% of the households have sold their property. A few of the residents have sold their land by doing residential plotting on their own and have received reasonable profits. However, the majority belongs to the people who have sold their property to contractors, or sold without any plotting. The acquisition of land by government is not much evident in the area, as only a small number of 2% households land has been acquired by the government. The residents whose land has been taken over feel nervous about their future and are dissatisfied with the compensation provided by the government.

Cultural Changes and Religious Norms

The peri-urban areas present a situation where a vast attributes of both rural and urban cultures are commonplace. The peri-urban culture may be characterized to be having paradoxical practices coexisting in virtually all spheres of human activity. This has resulted in the emergence of a form of hybrid culture encompassing the attributes of both rural and urban cultures.

About 1/3rd respondents reported that there has been cultural change. The change has been reported in form of changing life style, thinking of youngsters, means of entertainment, dressing sense and visit to religious places. A significant proportion of respondents reported that they are participating in religious activities even they participate in the festivals and ceremonies of households belonging to other religions.

The peri-urban areas have greater influence of the historical and cultural heritage, socio-cultural value system and folk traditions. Most of the people are religious minded. They do participate in the ceremonies, celebrations and festivals of other religions besides having respect to the religious places of different religions. The city has historical traditions for celebration of festivals and religious activities with great enthusiasm by all the religious communities. Even

Muslims significantly contributed in the construction and maintenance of temples while Hindus gifted their valuable lands for construction of mosque, Imambaras and other religious buildings. This shows a strong sense of social harmony and national integration. With the change of time, due to exposure from electronic media, closure interaction with urban centers, the lifestyle of young generation is gradually changing. Despite the apparent recognition of the fact that peri-urban Lucknow residents accord an important place to religion in their lives; the participation in religious rituals seem to be on a decline. Approximately 39% of the households claimed that they never participate in religious rituals.

Urbanism and religion at the outset appear as anomalies as urbanites mostly depend upon reason to find most of their problems. But in fact, urban religion is also a part of faith in reason of the urbanite. Urban religion is mostly secular. The importance of the religious institutions like temples, mosques and festivals in their traditional nature has been greatly reduced. The lack of strong feelings to guide man's life is sometimes attributed as the cause of many urban maladies. However, the notions behind religious feelings still guide the urbanite's way of life. Urbanites use religion for social purpose such as Ganesh festivals etc. The young generation residing in peri-urban areas is profoundly influenced by the wave of urbanization and witnessing a cultural metamorphosis. Furthermore, the elderly members of the peri-urban society have developed an understanding of the changing times and resulting changes in the lifestyle of young generations. Therefore, a large majority of peri-urban households are adapting their lifestyle and thoughts with those of young generation. This reflects a paradigm shift in the outlook of the peri-urban society which indicates that peri-urban population are open to rationality and scientific consideration and are trying cooperate with young generation.

Furthermore, the analysis of variations in visiting religious places across the people with different levels of educational achievement suggests that educational attainment does not affect the willingness to remain attracted with the religious values among peri-urban residents. The majority of those not visiting to religious places are basically poor and illiterate who may not have required resources to visit such places. However, as the level of educational attainment increases, the frequency to visit such places decreases, which may mean that educational achievement and the frequency to visit religious places are negatively correlated. The analysis of frequency of visiting religious places reflects that majority of the peri-urban residents visit such places some times in a month or on some special occasions. The analysis of reasons for visiting religious places reveals

that people largely visit such places for mental satisfaction and to find serenity. The other reasons include, seeking protection from misfortune and fulfilling the vows of life.

This suggests that people in the peri-urban Lucknow area are moving away from the rituals under the influence of urban culture, rational and scientific attitudes. Furthermore, the analysis of nature of participation suggests that majority people perform these rituals in celebrating festivals. This indicates that these rituals have only symbolic value in the life of peri-urban residents and they have adopted a rational and scientific attitude in the matters of performing such rituals.

Environmental and Health Related Aspects

Peri-urban areas are witnessing environmental degradation, pollution, and other problems related to environment such as drainage, availability of drinking water, disposal of wastes and waste water, sanitation and hygiene etc. Due to environmental degradation, the water borne diseases such as jaundice and cholera are increasing besides pooling of waste water is breeding mosquitoes, causing increase in cases of malaria, fylemia and dengue. The urban local governments are already facing problems of delivery of environmental and sanitation services to their city dwellers and there are no proper institutional arrangements for delivery of basic civic services such as drinking water, disposal of waste and waste water, drainage, etc. in the urban villages. Present survey also revealed that the dwellers of peri-urban areas are facing health problems due to increasing level of environmental degradation and pollution. Broadly speaking, the provision of public healthcare services is inadequate in the area. There is acute shortage of qualified doctors and other healthcare professionals. The majority population goes to private medical practitioners who charge exorbitant fee for their services. However, the community based efforts to sensitize residents of the area about health; hygiene and sanitation are ongoing and are well acknowledged by the residents of the area.

Our analysis reconfirms the above mentioned observation regarding the environmental hazards in peri-urban Lucknow area. The peri-urban Lucknow region is facing deforestation on a very large scale due to the changes in land use pattern, increased industrial activity, transportation activities and migration of people from both urban and rural areas. Adding to this, the increased population and population density provide for increased demand for fuel. The poor in the region use wood for the purpose of fuel. This on hand causes massive deforestation and air pollution on

the other due to the burning of wood. These factors amount to severe loss of forest in peri-urban Lucknow area, confirmed by as many as 29.80% of the residents of the area.

Deforestation, coupled with increased industrial activities, vehicular traffic, housing constructions etc. lead to the degradation of environment. Adding to this, the increased activities of men and machines lead to an uncomfortable level of pollution. The air, water and soil gets polluted to such levels that the efforts to restore the ecological balance of the region may always remain unmatched to the magnitude of disturbance occurred. This has affected the human existence in the peri-urban Lucknow region. The polluted environment leads to a variety of health hazards for human beings, animals and natural vegetation in the area. The situation of peri-urban Lucknow is no different from this commonly observed phenomenon, for instance, as many as 28.80% of the residents of the peri-urban Lucknow region experience increasing levels of noise pollution.

Noise pollution instantly disturbs an individual's state of physical and mental being. The long term effects of sustained exposure to increased noise pollution include serious health conditions which may range from deafness to psychosomatic conditions such as insomnia and frustration etc. The ill effects of noise pollution are visible in the peri-urban Lucknow area. As many as 17.80% of the residents feel psychosomatic conditions such as insomnia and frustration due to increased noise pollution in the area. Furthermore, 1% of the residents have experienced deafness due to higher levels of noise. These results indicate an alarming level of noise pollution in the peri-urban Lucknow area.

Air pollution, which is a common characteristic of cities and metropolis, is also evident in the peri-urban Lucknow area. About 29% of the households feel that the level of air pollution in the area has significantly increased in recent times. This rise in air pollution is caused by the by vehicular emission, concentration of dust particles and other heavy particles in the atmosphere due to increased building and construction activity, among others. Furthermore, massive deforestation and unmatched levels of a forestation cause the lack of concentration of oxygen in the atmosphere and increased concentration of other polluting gases due to lower absorption capacity. As the tree cover gets reduced the capacity of absorption of carbon dioxide gets reduced which result in higher concentration of polluting gases in the atmosphere.

Water pollution is also a noticeable phenomenon in peri-urban Lucknow area, which may cause more health and sanitation related complications than other sources of pollution. A range of factors are responsible behind water pollution in peri-urban Lucknow area. Industrial activities,

dense concentration of population and inadequacy of infrastructure for maintaining fresh sources of water and treatment of waste water are some of the main factors responsible for water pollution which are by extension, the different facets of urban sprawl. The quality of ground water used for drinking is alarming in some regions of the peri-urban Lucknow. The rapid growth in urban sprawl neglected water environments which has resulted in gradual deterioration of environment and the impact can also be seen on the ground water bodies.

The status of healthcare facilities available in the peri-urban Lucknow area is apparently inadequate keeping in mind the increasing population of the area. As the healthcare facilities available in the area are not upgraded as per the requirements of growing population and urbanization and remain predominantly rural in terms of infrastructure and availability of manpower to cater healthcare needs of the growing population. This typically presents a picture of rural public health scenario prevailing across the country. Planning commission of India aptly recognizes the gaps in the delivery of healthcare facilities in rural areas. The poor continue to avail of the costlier services provided by the private practitioner, even when they have access to subsidized or free public healthcare, due to reasons of distance, but more importantly, on account of the unpredictable availability and very low quality of health care services provided by the rural public health sector.

The analysis of the type of healthcare facilities accessed by the residents reveal that a large section of the people prefer to go to private medical practitioner in order to receive quality health care. For, the government healthcare facilities are largely inadequate in the area. The system of treatment is largely allopathic as its practitioners are easily available in both public and private sector. The Indian systems of medicine like ayurveda, unani, siddha, homeopathy etc. are not much popular among the residents of the area due to a variety of reasons ranging from non availability of practitioners to lack of popularity among general public about these alternative medicine systems in the area. The peri-urban Lucknow area faces acute shortage of skilled manpower in healthcare sector. More than 42% of the residents receive medical care from quacks which may prove dangerous, since they do not have required qualification and training of medical procedures.

However, the community based awareness mechanism about health; hygiene and sanitation are well in place. The community based health workers such as ANM, ASHA and Anaganbadi are working in local community to spread awareness about health, hygiene, family planning, sanitation

etc. Their efforts are recognized by the majority of residents of the peri-urban Lucknow area. Furthermore, periodic health camps in the area by NGO's and government healthcare agencies are held, these camps disseminate information, provide cure and medical consultation on arrange of health, hygiene and sanitation issues to the residents of the area.

Hence, we conclude that the provision of public healthcare services is inadequate in the area. There is acute shortage of qualified doctors and other healthcare professionals. The majority population goes to private medical practitioners who charge exorbitant fee for their services. However, the community based efforts to sensitize residents of the area about health; hygiene and sanitation are ongoing and are well acknowledged by the residents of the area.

Impact of Government Policies and Development

The present chapter aimed at analyzing the government policies and corresponding level of development in the peri-urban Lucknow area. The chapter also delved upon the issues of appropriateness of such policies and programmers in the wake of social, economic and environmental transition experienced in recent times in the area, with the objective of recognizing the lacunas in the existing policies and programmers and envisaging a future development mechanism for holistic and inclusive development of the peri-urban area.

In the peri- urban areas of Lucknow city, most of the respondents reported that they are aware about the government programmers and schemes. They are also participating in social development programmers and schemes such as NREGA, sanitation, Sarva Shikha Abhiyan, Indira Awas Yojana, PDS, etc. A micro-analysis of the extent of benefits received by the real beneficiaries from these programmers reveal that a majority population have access to Public Distribution System (PDS) which is operational in both rural and urban areas across the country and provides subsidized food grains to the poor. The other programmed which benefits the people most is MGNREGA, but it provides employment to only 8.40% of the residents of the area. The schemes for healthcare, sanitation and housing have not been able to benefit the needy to the extent required. This suggests that benefits of the existing government run programmers of social welfare have not fully benefitted the people of peri-urban Lucknow area, due to the issues of corruption, inefficiency in the existing system. Furthermore, the issues of elite capture in these programmers by locally dominant and influential figures are also widely acknowledged. This elite capture in these programmers results in skewed benefits of the scheme and uneven social development of the area.

Most of the respondents reported that government policies are benefitting the needy people. However, corruption, poor planning, castism and political inference affect the outreach of development programmers and schemes to the needy people. More than 1/3rd respondents reported that the PRIs are playing critical role in creating awareness about the development programmers and schemes and extending the benefits of those schemes to the beneficiaries.

The role of Non Government Organizations (NGO's) and Community Based Organizations (CBO's) in the development of the area has also been investigated. As far as the case of peri-urban Lucknow region is concerned, their participation in the development of the area has been on a very nominal scale. Whatever little bit of work of they have done, is for providing medical facilities, employment assistance and training to some extent. However, their impact on facilitating access to such services in general has been very ordinary. This suggests that NGO's and CBO's have not been fully participating in the extension of social development and economic welfare services in the peri-urban Lucknow area.

Nevertheless, a small number of people recognize their role in promoting social welfare at local level and contested that local bodies are assisting them in accessing services such as healthcare facilities, employment and training facilities, education, self employment and housing etc. However, the majority of these residents also affirm that the impact of the local bodies in promoting the development of the area as unsatisfactory. This suggests that the local bodies have largely been unsuccessful to assist the needy people and promoting the welfare and inclusive development of the area.

The government policies and institutions operational in the peri-urban area lacking efficiency and hence fall short in realizing the goal of social welfare and inclusive development with environmentally sustainable landscape. The existing structures and mechanisms and institutions responsible for peri-urban area development have not been able to realize their objective functions assigned to them by the government due to a variety of reasons ranging from corruption to elite capture in local development and social welfare schemes. Furthermore, the orientation of the current welfare and development programmers differs from the one needed for peri-urban area development, since these programmers have either been designed to address the problems for rural or urban development. Thus, these programmers fail to take in to account the transitional characteristics of peri-urban area.

Suggestions:

- Planning of rural-urban fringe is important as its development will directly affect the city. More ever it is the interaction between city and fringe that decides the development of city and this interaction needs to be enhanced and coordinated by appropriate planning measures. Perspective approach in planning should be adopted.
- The fringe area lacks most of the facilities and infrastructure base like education, health and other community services. Therefore infrastructure facilities should be uniformly distributed in the rural-urban fringe. This will make life pleasant in fringe areas and also reduce additional stress on the existing facilities of the city.
- There is wave of in migration towards city, which has resulted in increasing population density both in city and fringe villages. This rapid growth of population mainly due to rural-urban migration has caused congestion, traffic jams and road accidents as the city roads are not able to accommodate the ever increasing traffic. Therefore, regional approach in planning should be adopted. The population retaining capacity of the various urban centers of the valley has to be increased by providing the basic community amenities and services in these urban centers.
- Development of fringe will lead to a developed city. The development of fringe should be the priority of policy makers as it is the unattended zone so for as urban planning and city development is concerned. Those economic activities in the fringe zone should be promoted which have less environmental impacts. Lucknow, being a cultural city has a tremendous scope for products like handicrafts, floriculture and horticulture.
- Urban sprawl in the form of ribbon development should be discouraged, as it is economically disadvantageous to provide various civic amenities like water supply, electricity etc. similarly, leapfrog urban development should also be discouraged and the unproductive land should be devoted to urban uses
- Coordination between various agencies like village Panchayats and town planning organization should be promoted for overall development of peri urban areas.

- District Planning Committees (DPCs) need to be set up as an institutional body by recognizing the rural-urban divide and peri urban as a distinct area, which is empowered through a concept of regional planning.
- Nagar Panchayats, a forum for civil society engagement, are ideal institutions which get convergence of rural and urban areas and which should also be considered by the Census as one of the hierarchies in planning process.
- The roles of DPCs and NPs need to be defined clearly, also in terms of rules and regulations (73rd and 74th Amendments) and with allocated budgets and decision making powers.\
- Participation for cooperative governance and sustainability should be seen as important aspects of the peri urban planning process; role of civil society, education and access to basic facilities are important to be met for urban fringe dwellers.
- Environment should be included in the development of Master Plans, considering the industrial/pollution problems of urban fringe as well. .
- There is imperative need to promote facilities for safe non-motorized transport within peri urban areas. Standards for new road design should incorporate the provision of space for non-motorized modes. It is the need of hour to ensure better integration of transport provision across the combined urban/peri urban region. Integration should concern both spatial and modal issues.