



CITY STRUCTURE AND URBANIZATION OF BANGALORE

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ABSTRACT-

Cities were subjected to the process of urbanization for common needs and pressures of their surroundings and their own cultural heritage to be exactly alike. Each speaks in a unique way of the history and geography of the region it expresses. From the beginning of the historical period the cities of south India have shown diverse morphological structures and evolutionary patterns. Various factors like historic, geographic, physical, cultural etc that have been responsible for the growth of cities in south India, by investigating the overall geographical distribution of urban places, and the specific morphological patterns were considered.

KEY WORDS- Geography, Urbanization.

INTRODUCTION-

'Evolution is modification by a succession of infinitesimal changes; the modification endures long after the causes for it cease to act. In this section the geographic features molded by historic events, are analyzed to bring out some salient features of the evolutionary processes, which have acted in the cities of south India'. The Chera, Chola and Pandya kingdoms flourished in South India prior to the 12th century. The rulers of these kingdoms constructed temples in as many habitable sites as possible. The temple was the center of social life and thus it became the nucleus of the settlement. According to ancient literature, a place without a temple was considered a barren wasteland. For this reason, kings initially gave much importance to the construction of temples.

Later with the establishment of administrative functions and construction of small places, these temple settlements grew as urban centers, recognized as important cities, though it may not be possible to equate such early cities with the present urban areas. During 12th century by the invasion of Malik-Ka- fur of Delhi, which resulted in the destruction of southern cities and growth, was retarded for some time. Soon the rise of Vijayanagar empire check the further invasions of Muslims, a number of forts were constructed which became the nuclei of many urban settlements'. Feudal lords were appointed, in order to establish strong administrative control. In many respects, the first half of this period was very

well compared to the mediaeval period in England, which gave rise to many feudal lords whose administration was centered on fortified castles.

In the first half of the 17th century, the energy of the Muslim rules was devoted to the building of mosques, renovating of the old forts, and the establishment of new centers to administer conquered territory. In the second half, the British challenged the supremacy of the Muslims. During this latter period, Dindigal, Coimbatour, Bangalore, Shimoga, Belgam, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Bellary, Mysore, Mangalore and Vellore became important strategic towns. The frequent shifting of capitals retarded the growth of older cities. For instance, Srirangapatnam was made the capital and the former capital, Mysore, lost much of its importance, similarly, Hyderabad declined when administrative functions were shifted to Aurangabad, and revived when Hyderabad became the capital of the Nizam's domain'.

In the latter part of the period, during the conflict between the British and the Muslim rules, several cities were destroyed. The best-known example is Coimbatore devastated during the fourth Anglo Mysore war. The city was deserted, reduced to the state of a petty village. Early part of 18th century, garrisons and cantonments were established in a number of cities, and these played a dominant role in the development of many modern cities in south India. Bangalore and Hyderabad were the examples of cities whose entire characters have been shaped by the presence of a spacious cantonment.

The various geographic and cultural factor which stimulated the growth of cities in south India during this period, can be classified under

- [a] the angles that took place in the administrative boundaries of Taluks and districts, thus determining the establishment of taluk and district head quarters,
- [b] The constriction of railways and metal led roads with bridges
- [c] Introduction of many educational institutions and medical facilities by the government as well as by English and American Christian missions,
- [d] Establishment of cantonments
- [e] Irrigation and power development
- [f] Industrial development.

The city in its totality is a part of the city region system, which in its turn is a part of a system of cities. Thus, the city system has intra-city, city regional and intercity dimensions. Both city regional and inter-city dimensions have their imprints on intra-city structure. City structure is complex and comprises sets of entities-objects, activities, infrastructure and land inter dependent and interacting among themselves and with their environment. To understand the structure in its totality it is recognized that various components of the structure need to be analyzed within a common conceptual framework. Study of city structure requires an understanding of the processes and patterns underlying the structure and the nature of mechanisms involved'.

The householders of similar socio-economic status and similar activities tend to cluster at various locations within a city, and locations were determined by historical, social, economic and administrative factors. All these contribute to stratification in structure which changes over time owing to the very dynamic Character of the city. The following three basic models of spatial patterning of households were emphasized that they are not mutually exclusive and the end result is a tripartite structure. The other models were generalized the model with reference to the pre-industrial city as one of rich centre and poor periphery with a single centre. Here the socio-economic status of households is the basic explanatory variable. The other major model is the colonial city model. In India the nature of the cities were dual structures like indigenus and anglicized due to morphological elements of the city.

The colonial cities of developing countries having its Bazaar, peasant economy and firm type of capitalist economy. In reality, the Indian city structure is more complex than its simple dual structure. Some of the cities retain their overall pre-industrial structural characteristics of socio-economic status of the city's households were had the determining criterion.

The demographic and social structure, economic structure, spatial structure, ecological structures were the important city structures. Population density is one of the basic elements of urban form and city structure can be expressed in that element. The ecological structure of a city is a product of social, economic and 3 vocational characteristics of its inhabitants and their activities. The structure is stratified because the households of similar socio-economic status and similar activities tend to cluster at various locations in the city, and the locations are determined by social, economic and historical factors. The end result is a tripartite structure: a combination of zones sectors and nuclei. Thus a city's ecological structure tends to be characterized by socio-economic isomorphism and spatial stratification/segregation'.

The Present study examines to what extent does the pattern of the ecological structure of Bangalore city follows the classical model in its urban growth. The developing urban structure in the historical past of the city and spatial distributions of selected socio-economic characteristics are analyzed'.

Bangalore, the capital city of Karnataka, with its population around 5 million and ranks with fifth longest in the city system of India and is a true cosmopolitan city. However it had modest beginnings and the origin of 'Bengaluru' is lost in history. However, several artifacts have been found dating back to 900 AD and even earlier Bangalore in its present context was founded when a mud fort was built at Bangalore. Kempe Gowda I, a feudatory of the Vijayanagar Empire, built it in 1537 AD and made it his capital'.

The fort near the city market in the west and the barracks near the Ulsoor tank in the east, were the two foundation of Bangalore city. The Kernels of the city situated only 4 miles apart but founded with a time Lag of more than two and a half centuries the fort built in 1537 and the British garrison and barracks established in 1809. The neighborhood of the fort and the neighborhood of the Ulsoor tank developed under different reasons. The defensive strong point apart, the fort city was oriented to the philosophy of a city and temple builder, an agriculturist turned warrior, under whose patronage developed a township of wholesale and retail traders, and of highly skilled artisans particularly families of cotton weavers. In contrast to this, the neighborhood of the Ulsoor tank was developed to cater to the requirements of the British troops and British officers who were pulled out of Srirangapatnam and settled near the tanks. Thus, a military cantonment developed along with a civilian settlement of mainly retail traders and service classes adjoining the Ulsoor village. While the fort neighborhood developed as a typical native town with its bazaar, traders and artisans, the Ulsoor neighborhood developed as a cantonment with its artillery and cavalry, Barracks, parade ground, infantry road, the mall, fire and spacious bungalows, bars and nightclubs. In addition, polo playing and racing developed in keeping with the cantonment culture. Thus, the cantonment became the home for the British oriental Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians'.

Both the nuclei expanded; the fort neighborhood expanded east, north and south, and the Ulsoor neighborhood expanded west, north and south, invading the STARINGAN open spaces and fertile agricultural lands. The east and west developed under two independent administrative units, with independent development programmers for nearly eight decades till their merger in 1949. Thus the development goals of both the municipalities were to provide minimal urban amenities and housing, the initial disparities in congestion, growth rates, and levels of urban amenities led to an eastwest Zone.

With the development of Russell market and west ward expansion of the cantonment, the nuclear of the west shifted to the Russell market locality, while the development of the city market near the fort contributed to further intensification of the growth nucleus of the west. The east-west zones certainly had its intermixing and integrating social cultural elements in the two nuclei-temples, churches and mosques near both the city market and the Russell market though the east had more churches and mosques and the west more temples. Even the street names such as Dharmaraya Koil Street and Meenakshi Koil Street in the pre-dominantly Muslim and

CONCLUSION-

Christian areas near the Russell market, and sultan pet near the city market, a predominantly Hindu area, only echo the existence of the different religions communities. Although, the east-west differentiation in terms of economic characteristics is not so marked, it is quite significant in terms of social composition of the populations in the two parts of the city.

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