



Dresdner Planerforum

Does One Shoe Fits All? – Peri-Urban Typology and Dynamics in Rurban India

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Peri-urban studies have found new attraction in the developing south, especially after the fast growing metropolitan cities expanded spatially. Researchers have pointed out “degenerating nature” (Kundu 2002) or “primordial” (Arabindoo 2005) characteristics of periurban, but when one analyses the peri-urban scenario, the yardstick is always “urban”. In other words, one looks at the rural areas surrounding the urban areas from the point of view of urban rather than looking at the typologies that emerge in the rural context and how the peri-urban gets linked to the urban continuum. Usually urban development policies in the developing south consider the entire urban periphery or even the urban areas in one basket and treat them as equal. This presentation, through Indian scenario shows how the peri-urban area have multi-dimensional characteristics and how the new “RURBAN MISSION”, aims to change the Urban scene of India in near future by considering at least some of these variations in urban periphery. At the same time, the “RURBAN MISSION” also comes out with a standardized approach of “one shoe fits all” policy while addressing the rural areas with some innovative schemes.

After analyzing the typology, this presentation goes into analyses of defining peri-urban given the “smart city” parameters and how the new available statistics on mobility can help us in doing so. Based on the “RURBAN MISSION” approach of identifying various clusters in India, the presentation shows through case studies how the peri-urban varies in its character and size but how they get connected to the city network through ICT, connectivity, mobility, etc. It concludes by highlighting the needs for further research in the area of peri-urban, especially in terms of multi-scale governance issues and how it gets integrated to the city and what makes it hooked to a city or function independently.

Prof. Dr. Namperumal Sridharan is currently working with the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi as a Professor in Regional Planning. He is a Chairperson of the Educational Standing Committee of the professional body of Institute of Town Planners’ India. Prior to this he was the Director of School of Planning and Architecture-Vijayawada. Dr. Sridharan has more than 33 years of experience in the field of Urban and Regional Planning. He holds a Master’s in Economics, Urban and Regional Planning, Town & Country Planning (Poland) and Financial Management in addition to a Doctoral Degree from RMIT, Australia in the field of Urban Planning. He has published widely in national and interna-

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Moderation

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tional journals in the fields of Peri-Urban Development, Urban Governance, rural development and Spatial Data Infrastructure. Dr. Sridharan has been a visiting researcher at the Universities of Cologne, Paris, Florence, Amsterdam and Twente (ITC-Enschede). He has been honoured by Indian and foreign universities on many occasions. His area of interest includes Peri-Urban Development, Rurban Cluster Planning, Corridor Development and Urbanisation, Urban Land Markets, poverty and sustainability, urban governance, and Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI).

Currently Dr. Sridharan has been working on peri-urban development and rurban cluster action plans in India (he has been assisting the state governments of Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Tripura), smart cities and urban governance through SDI as well as historic cities of India and implications on the emerging regions.