

RURAL – URBAN DIFFERENCE

- It is very difficult to compare rural & urban society
- Gift & Halbert : dichotomy between 'Rural & Urban' is more of a theoretical concept than a division based upon the facts of community life.
- Some of the difficulties faced are that there is no universal definition of village and town which can clearly distinguish them.
- For, actually the difference between town & village is merely one of degrees, as a result of which it is very difficult to make a clear distinction between the two.

- Even though the environment of the city and the village are different, a town can have a variety of environment within itself including that of a village but obviously that part of the city cannot be called a village.
- Both towns and villages influence each other and at times it becomes difficult to decide whether a place is a town a village considering that villages have improved electricity & education etc and the population charge also that to resemble with similar birth rate and family size

1. Differences in social organization

- **Family** - The families in the villages & towns exhibit the following differences
 - (a) In the villages the families are comparatively stronger than the families in the town, where greater importance is attached to the individual than to the family
 - (b) In the villages the system of joint family is to be found in greater number than in the town
 - (c) In the villages there is greater control, intimacy & organization than in the families in towns
 - (d) In the towns, as compared with the village, the functions of the family are more steadily decreasing.

- **Marriage –**

- (a) In the towns there is a preponderance of love marriages in comparison with the villages
- (b) In towns as compared to the villages, one finds a number of divorces
- (c) In towns greater freedom is allowed in selection of a life partner.

- **Condition of women** - Generally, the women in the villages are not much, if at all, educated & their social status is also low.
- **Neighborhood** - In the villages the neighborhood has a greater importance than it has in the towns, where sometimes people do not even know their neighbours.
- **We feeling** - In the rural community the 'we feeling' is found to be far stronger than in the urban community. The influence of the community on the individual in the village is greater than in the towns.
- **Inequality of classes**- The inequality of classes is much more demarcated in the towns than in the villages & there are correspondingly more conflicts in the towns.
- Bogardens, "Class extremes characterize the city".

.Differences in Social Restrictions

- About the social control in the villages, Biesanz write, "In the rural community custom is the king, the followings & more control most of behavior. "On the other hand, the society does not exercise much control over the individuals in the urban society.
- In the crowds & the high velocity of life in towns no one has time to look to another.
- In the words of Kingsley Davis," He can escape the oppressive control of any primary group when he wishes, simply by disappearing into the sea of strangers."
- But the control of police, law, court, etc., is greater in the towns than in the village

Difference in Social Interactions

- number and those that do exist are personal (usually) with primary groups, family, near relations etc. On the other hand, the social relations the town are numerous of which most are in direct & impersonal (relations tend more towards secondary groups).
- In the words of Gist & Halloert, "the city encourages impersonal rather than personal relationship."
- Division of labour & specialization - In the towns, but not in the villages to quite the same extent, division of labour and specialization are found to exist.
- In this way the scope for social co-operation is far greater in the towns than in the villages.

- **Conflict** - The conflict in the villages is usually direct while the conflict is comparatively indirect in the urban context.
- **Tolerance** - When compared to villages there is greater toleration in the towns and consequently a larger degree of accommodation.
- **Assimilation** - The process of assimilation takes place rather slowly in the village as a result of a near absence of cultural differences.
- In the towns people of different cultures live side by side & thus the process of assimilation operates much faster.

Differences is social viewpoint

- **Progressive** - Acc. To New Mayer, "Rural Cultural tends to be conservative". In the words of Ross, "The city is cosmopolitan whereas the country is nationalistic & patriotic." In this way the city is more progressive than the village.
- **Politics** - In the towns, more than the villages, people take interest & active part in politics.
- **Religion & Ritual** - In the villages greater importance is attached to religion & ritual than in towns.
- Whereas the religion of the rural people is based upon faith, the religion in the city is relatively more based upon reason.

- **Fatalism** - The villagers are more fatalistic than the urban people because the lives of the villagers are affected to a very large extent by natural forces
- while the urban people are equipped with scientific knowledge & techniques in handling natural calamities & catastrophes.
- **Artificiality** - There is more artificiality in the urban people than in the villagers.
- Bogardus has correctly written, "Rural People are frank, open & genuine; they scan the artificiality of many phases of city life."

5. Differences in Social Mobility & Stability

- - There is greater social disorganization in the towns than in the villages.
- To quote Sorokin & Zimmerman, "The rural community is similar to calm water in a pail(bucket) and the urban community to boiling water in Kettle.
- Stability is the typical trait for the one; mobility is the typical for the other". In this way, cities possess greater mobility than the villages (Territorial, occupational & other forms & soc. mobility).

Normally the migration current carries more individuals from the country to the city and only in the periods of social catastrophe is the migration from the city to the country greater than from the country to the city.

.Differences in Economics Life

- **Modes of living** - "Two fundamentally different modes of getting a living set the rural & urban worlds apart".
- In the villages the major occupation is agricultural while in the towns the major occupations are of an industrial nature. (Commerces, professions, governing etc).
- **Standard of Living** - Standard of living in the villages is lower than that of the towns because the means of earning money are limited in the villages. Besides making more money the urban people are more prodigal than the villagers.
- **In the words, of Ross, "Country life, then suggests 'save!' city life suggests 'spend!'".**
- At the same time the villagers do not get much to spend whereas the man in the city is at his wits end as to the means of making enough money to enable him to buy the commodities displayed for consumption.

- **7.Differences in Cultural life -**

- **Static** - Culture is more static in the villages than in the towns.
- **Caste** - In the village the basis of culture is caste & purity. In the towns it has a secular basis.
- **Traditions** - Traditions have a very important place in rural culture, while urban culture does not attach much importance to them.

8. Physical Differences:-

- **Relationship to nature exists.** On the other hand in cities greater isolation from nature is seen. There is a **predominance of man-made environment** over the natural.
- **Size of community** - As a rule in the same country and at the same period. The size of the urban community is much larger than the rural community.
- **Density of population** - In the same country and at the same period the density is lower than in the urban country.
- **Heterogeneity** and Homogeneity of the population compared with the urban population, rural communities are more homogenous in social & psychological traits. The urban population. Is more heterogeneous than the rural community of its time & country.

Key Differences Between Urban and Rural

- A settlement where the population is very high and has the features of a built environment (an environment that provides basic facilities for human activity), is known as urban. Rural is the geographical region located in the outer parts of the cities or towns.
- The life in urban areas is fast and complicated, whereas rural life is simple and relaxed.
- The Urban settlement includes cities and towns. On the other hand, the rural settlement includes villages and hamlets.
- There is greater isolation from nature in urban areas, due to the existence of the built environment. Conversely, rural areas are in direct contact with nature, as natural elements influence them.
- Urban people are engaged in non-agricultural work, i.e. trade, commerce or service industry. In contrast, the primary occupation of rural people is agriculture and animal husbandry

- Population wise, urban areas are densely populated, which is based on the urbanisation, i.e. the higher the urbanisation, the higher is the population. On the contrary, the rural population is sparse, which has an inverse relationship with agriculturism.
- Urban areas are developed in a planned and systematic way, according to the process of urbanisation and industrialisation. Development in rural areas is seldom, based on the availability of natural vegetation and fauna in the region.
- When it comes to social mobilisation, urban people are highly intensive as they change their occupation or residence frequently in search of better opportunities. However, in rural areas occupational or territorial mobility of the people is relatively less intensive.
- Division of labour and specialisation is always present in the urban settlement at the time of job allotment. As opposed to rural areas, there is no division of labour.

Rural-Urban Continuum

- Some sociologists have used the concept of rural-urban continuum to stress the idea that there are no sharp breaking points to be found in the degree or quantity of rural urban differences.
- Robert Redfield has given the concept of rural-urban continuum on the basis of his study of Mexican peasants of Tepoztlain. The rapid process of urbanization through the establishment of industries, urban traits and facilities have decreased the differences between villages and cities.

- There are some sociologists who treat rural-urban as dichotomous categories have differentiated the two at various levels including occupational differences, environmental differences, differences in the sizes of communities, differences in the density of population, differences in social mobility and direction of migration, differences in social stratification and in the systems of social interaction.
- A third view regarding rural and urban communities has been given by Pocock who believe that both village and city are elements of the same civilization and hence neither rural urban dichotomy, nor continuum is meaningful.

- M. S. A. Rao points out in the Indian context that although both village and town formed part of the same civilization characterized by institution of kinship and caste system in pre-British India, there were certain specific institutional forms and organizational ways distinguishing social and cultural life in towns from that in village.
- Maclver remarks that though the communities are normally divided into rural and urban the line of demarcation is not always clear between these two types of communities. There is no sharp demarcation to tell where the city ends and country begins. Every village possesses some elements of the city and every city carries some features of the village.

- RK Mukherjee prefers the continuum model by talking of the degree of urbanization as a useful conceptual tool for understanding rural-urban relations. PA Sorokin and Zimmerman in Principles of Rural-Urban sociology have stated that the factors distinguishing rural from urban communities include occupation, size and density of population as well as mobility, differentiation and stratification.

Rural-Urban Continuum: Meaning and Definitions

- Rural- urban continuum, the merging of town and country, a term used in recognition of the fact that in general there is rarely, either physically or socially, a sharp division, a clearly marked boundary between the two, with one part of the population wholly urban, the other wholly rural.
- According to Professor A. R. Desai, 'Social life in the country-side moves and develops in a rural setting just as social life in the urban area moves and develops in an urban setting, their respective settings considerably determine rural and urban social life.
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- From the analytical point of view, the characteristics of these two modes of living are represented by two concepts namely 'ruralism' and 'urbanism.' Ruralism signifies the rural mode of living in which there is predominance of traditions, customs, and folk culture and joint family. On the other hand, urbanism signifies the urban mode of living in which there is predominance of impersonal relations, individualism and secondary associations

- The rural social world is different from the urban social world. There is a valid distinction between village and city in terms of two different ethos of life, cultural patterns, socio-cultural groupings and modes of earning and livelihood.
- However, there are also structural similarities between the two with regard to the patterns of caste, kinship, rules of marriages, observance of religious practices, migrations, educational institutions, employment opportunities and administration are the other institutional sources of linkages between villages and cities. Thus, villages and towns cannot be seen simply as dichotomous entities. They are interlinked and yet distinct from each other.

- The concept of rural-urban continuum is based on the assumption of rural-urban differences. According to G. V. Fuguitt, 'If rural-urban sociology is to continue a specialized sub-field and has a meaningful conceptual basis, the need for a new orientation is evident.'
- Professor Bertrand made the following observation: 'Proponents of the continuum theory feel that rural-urban differences occur in a relative degree in a range extending between two polar extremes of rural and urban.'

- The continuum theory lays emphasis on the rural-urban differences rather than on the rural-urban dichotomy. Irrespective of the course of evolution, distinction can be drawn between rural and urban way of life.
- The difference between urban centres and rural areas may seem so obvious that the definitions should not be an issue. However, there can be major variations in the ways in which different nations define what is an urban centre. The criteria used include population size and density, and the availability of services such as the secondary schools, hospitals and banks.

DE-URBANISATION

- Counterurbanization, or **de-urbanization**, is a demographic and social process whereby people move from urban areas to rural areas. It is, like suburbanization, inversely related to **urbanization**. It first occurred as a reaction to inner-city deprivation
- More recent research has documented the social and political drivers of counterurbanization and its impacts in developing countries such as China, which are currently undergoing the process of mass urbanization. It is one of the causes that can lead to [shrinking cities](#)

- Counterurbanization is the process by which people migrate from urban to rural communities, the opposite of [urbanization](#).
- People have moved from urban to rural communities for various reasons, including job opportunities and simpler lives. In recent years, due to technology, this process has been occurring in reverse.
- With new communications technology, people from rural communities can [work from home](#) because they can connect with each other via [rural Internet](#), which means some employment opportunities no longer require moving to an urban community.
- Counterurbanization is about people being able to explore alternatives to living in the city, creating changes in living location preferences.

- In past years, a multi-corporation business would use [outsourcing](#) by hiring workers in poorer countries for cheap labor. In more recent years, corporations have been using "rural sourcing which involves using small to medium sized town as a source of labor.
- This creates jobs in the country and also for rural communities so they do not need to move their entire family to a whole new setting and also reduces unnecessary expense for the companies.
- Most of the workers in these rural settings get paid less but have an option of either working from home or an office. If they were in an urban setting, the company would spend more money on an entirely new office for the urban based employees to work at.

- Counterurbanization is different around the globe because there is no universal definition. All definitions vary, but revolve around the central idea of physical movement from a populated location to a less populated location.
- Clare J.A. Mitchell, an associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Waterloo, published that in Europe, counterurbanization is the process of deconcentration of one area to another that is beyond suburbanization or metro decentralization.
- Australia views counterurbanization as the net migration downwards in a hierarchy. Though many definitions exist, Mitchell states that counterurbanization is a descriptive term that describes a type of migration.

Rurbanisation

- **Rurbanisation** is a re-conceptualisation of human settlements in which the city and the countryside are considered as one space, not two as it is now - city and countryside are regarded as separate realms.
- Rurbanisation stems from the belief that the continued consideration of the rural and the urban as two distinct realms is unsustainable in terms of [social justice](#), cultural justice and [environmental justice](#).
- This mode of thinking calls for a new spatial geometry of integrated development that offers real viable choices for living, one that is supported by environmentally sustainable technology and ethical lifestyle.
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