
Research Paper



SPATIAL ORGANIZATION OF RURAL MARKETS OF SINGHWARA BLOCK

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ABSTRACT

Markets are centers of nucleation and concentration. Their appearance is not sudden and they are neither non spatial. They are on the other hand, a growth process outcome and inherit a sequence of temporal evolution. In this sense, rural markets may be identified as links of commercial development sequence, which comprise "Vistas of origin, growth and related temporal developments" (Dixit, 1984). It is quite natural as roots of all kinds of evolutionary sequence always penetrate deep into long history, more so in case of rural markets, because they have their genetic base in the story of evolution of human civilization and development of settlements in early history. This paper attempts to study the spatial organisation of rural market of Singhwara Block.

KEYWORDS: Permanent Market, Periodic Market, Rural Markets, Spatial Organization.

INTRODUCTION

The spatial organizational characteristics of rural markets and urban markets vary, because social and economic demands of inhabitants are not similar. Periodic markets rule the show in rural areas. In spatial organizational comprehension, the sequence of evolution of markets causes three situations.

- (i) Coexistence of permanent and periodic markets.
- (ii) Existence of only permanent markets.
- (iii) Existence of only periodic markets.

The presence of three situations reflects apparent connection of the evolution of number and kinds of markets with the level of socio-economic development in regional perspectives. Existence of only permanent markets indicates the achievement of high order of development in the region. Conversely, the existence of only periodic markets follows the condition of low level of development, while combined occurrence of both permanent and periodic markets express the stage of development, which may be said to attain medium stage of development. The analysis of the locational frequencies and pattern of distribution of rural markets with reference to rural segments of Indian plains, which is represented by Singhwara Block the study area, shows the prevalence of the situation where where

periodic markets (in larger frequencies) and permanent rural markets and urban market co-exist at not very long distance.

ATTRIBUTES OF SPATIAL ORGANISATION

The concept of spatial organization relates to locational attributes of cultural elements in terms of sites, distance, concentration and dispersion tendency. The locational attributes of rural markets also contribute to develop organisational distinctiveness in response with spatial characteristics of the region. The analysis of the spatial distribution of rural markets in Singhwara Community Development Block to explain the nature of spatial organization. The distinct organizational character happens to be the outcome of correlates of number of market centers with reference to area of units of analysis, population of the units of spatial analysis, density of population and number of inhabited villages therein. The relationships, which are observed in the study area, correspond to:

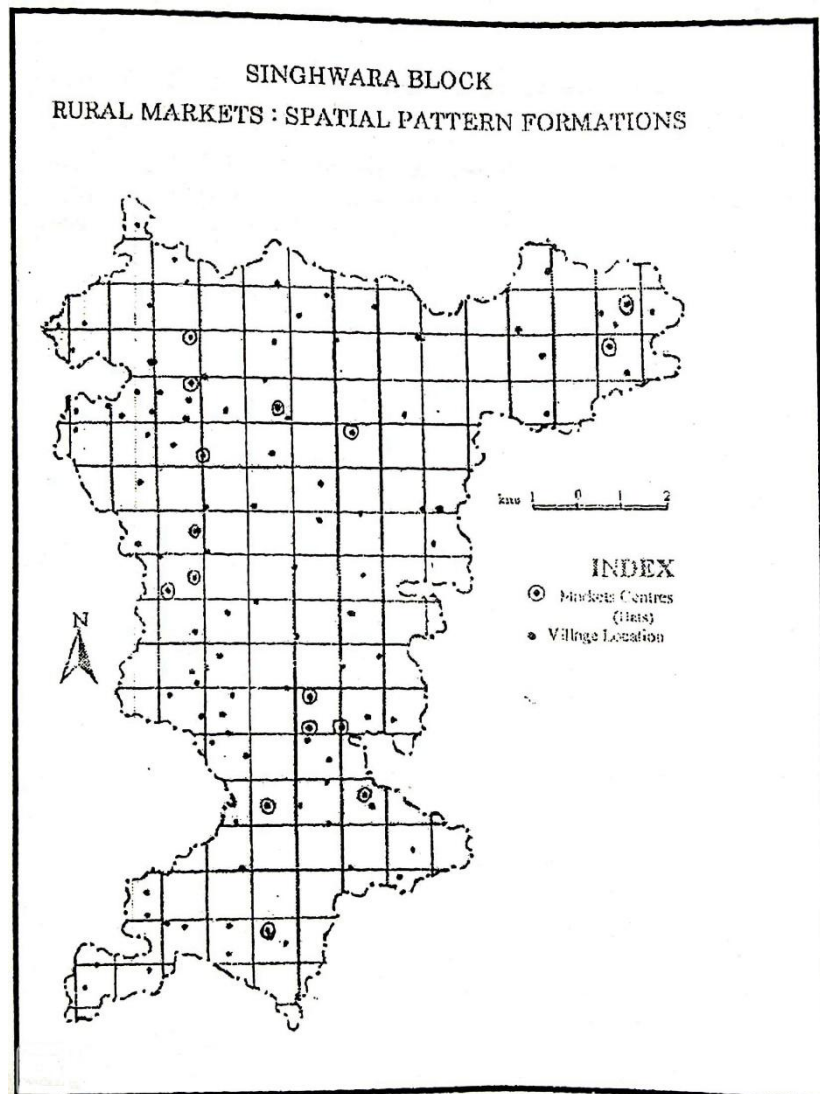
- The geographical area of Panchayats does not conform the number of market centers,
- The population magnitude of the Panchayats, too, does not bring out correlation.
- The density of apparent positive population does not produce direct bearing on the distribution of market centres,
- The correlation between the presence of inhabited villages and the location of market centres also fail to be positive,

SPATIAL ORGANISATION OF HATS OF SINGHWARA CDB

The most effective factor, responsible to determine the spatial location of market centres, seems to be the lay out of roads in the region. The analysis of the map showing the location of all 100 village and all 16 rural hats on one square km. grids, helps to bring out the pattern of spatial organisation of rural hats in Singhwara Community Development Block. The chief organisational features, which are observed may include:

- i. The most noticeable organisational pattern appears to carve out a linear stretch of about six squares, which provides the location of six hats (periodic markets). The representative markets are Sanahpur Buzurg, Bharwara, Ghurdor, Katasa, Damanjee, Singhwara.
- ii. Two apparent clusters of villages one to the west of and in the northern second square of the linear stretch and two to the south of the stretch, are found.
- iii. About 40 villages, located within and close to the linear stretch, appear to form the commercial catchments areas of the six rural hats.
- iv. A cluster of three rural hats, viz. Simri, Govindpur, Bastwara tends to form a close triangle with sub-regional location in south central east portion. The number of village in the vicinity of this tringle is, however, not large in location.
- v. Apart from these two patterns of distribution of market centres in the region two on one km² in the northeastern location are represented by the frequency of Tektar and Sirhaulti hats.
- vi. Another instance of point location of rural markets is found in north central mid frequency of Asthua and Kaligaon hats.
- vii. In the southern section of the Block three market places have developed in isolation and they fail to present any recognized pattern. These are Madhopur, Birdipur and Sarwara hat.

- viii. A vast central area of about 25 squares and another of almost the same magnitude of expanse in the north represent sub-regional gaps in the spatial organizational arrangement of rural markets in Singhwara Community Development Block region.
- ix. The most obvious single most determinants of the alignment and gaps in the pattern of spatial organization of rural markets, in the study area, is seen in the development of road services.
- x. Physiographic conditions, i.e. terrain drainage events of inundation and flooding etc. are another, factors, which have affected the pattern of spatial organization of hats in the region.

**Fig-1****SPACING OF HATS**

Spacing of the settlements has been considered as a “continuous function” (Haggett, 1968). Spacing refers to the measurement of linear distance and its analysis has been proved beneficial to explain the organisational attribute over the space. The techniques used to measure index of spacing are used in case of analyzing spatial organization of settlements with reference to relatively big region where number of attributes is larger. Naturally, this cannot be used in the present context. A visual comprehension of the distribution pattern of villages and rural markets on the map suggests that:

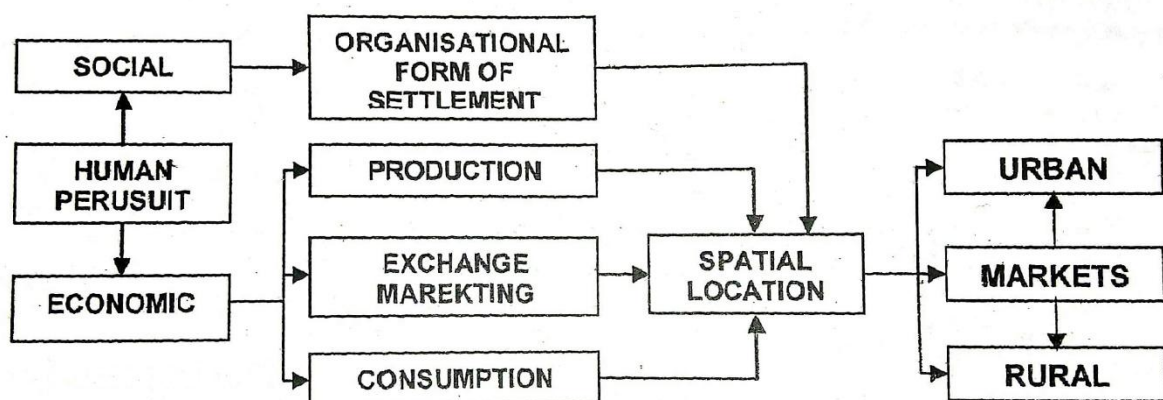
- (i) The locational organization of the villagers are more randomly distributed, though they tend to cluster in some pockets,
- (ii) Rural markets, though, have tendency to seek random location, they are found to cluster at lower spatial scale,
- (iii) The spacing between two nearest rural hats ranges between one and three kilometers,
- (iv) In the presence of relatively greater number, the villages produce more uniform pattern,
- (v) The spacing attribute in spatial organization is, however, not always simple, but a "complex function" (Theomas, 1962). As a complex function the spacing is characterized to be the result of the size of settlement, its occupational structure and geographical conditions prevailing over the region's space.

The spatial organization of rural markets in association with the distribution of villages of the study area (Singhwara Block) reveals distinct generalized spacing pattern.

- (i) The western most strip of about 4 to 5 kilometres width has the lowest spacing between two nearest centres. This is the strip, which locate the maximum number of village as well as rural hats.
- (ii) The spacing in a few pockets of the strip gives clustered pattern in northern, middle and southern sections.
- (iii) The middle strip of another 4.5 kilometres width shows moderate degree of spacing producing more random distribution of settlements and giving a uniform look. Only one pocket has shown clustering of settlements around triangle of rural hats.
- (iv) There is the eastern (north east location) strip to have located just two rural markets and eight villages. The strip shows moderate spacing among settlement with a weak tendency of clustering around two hats.

RURAL MARKET AS SPATIAL SYSTEM COMPONENT

The human world has created a distinct spatial system over the earth's surface. The spatial system, thus created has given rise to the concept of spatial organization. Spatial organization may be understood to mean a synchronized structural arrangement of and functional operation of cultural artifacts over the space. The evolution and arrangement of elements of cultural artifacts are manifested through the locational behaviour of establishments, institutional infrastructure developed in relation to social and economic activities of human groups. The fundamental elements of the necessities of the evolution of spatial system have the outcome of the space requirement for human and economic activities.



Rural sub-system dominates as a counterpart of urban sub-system in Indian spatial system. This means that rural marketing provides exchange services to larger section of population. Rural marketing has appeared and existed to manifest location fully in the form of rural hats. Rural dominates urban in terms of greater number of settlements (villages), inhabitation of larger masses of population almost 100 percent at smaller regional blocks. Most community development blocks Darbhanga district are totally rural and greater number of market place (villages provide sites to rural hats). Hats are true mirrors through which socio-economic organizational images of India's spatial system are reflected or viewed.

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