

## PREFACE

Geography is the study of areal variations and areal differentiation's on the earth surface, so is its important branch human geography that takes into account the areal variations and differentiations in man's life and activities. Urban and rural areas are the two significant abodes of man. Where the former is characterized by the big workshop of the non agricultural, the latter by that of the agricultural activities. Geography has enfolded both and named urban and rural geography. For long the urban areas were the chief focus of interest among the geographers, the social academics, planners, industrialists and business houses and their counter part rural areas have been left in isolation. With the ever increasing population and decreasing support of the rural resources as well as the ever increasing influx of the rural depressed and unemployed people to urban areas caused great problem of adjustment and accommodation in them. It then made to realise that this sector of economy must not be ignored, as it may have the effect of rural depopulation, and urban saturation. Thus the eyes of planners administration and scientists started looking at the rural areas, and attempts were made to bring rural areas also in the mainstream of production, and a viable sector of economy. To create opportunities of employment with in them so as to stall the unending chain of rural urban migration, on one hand, and to increase the productivity and production, on the other, was chief goal of the strategies of planning right through the first Five Year Plan, which gave almost priority to particularly agricultural development in rural sector. Thus several changes started taking place with in them successively through the different central and state level planning giving 'multifaceted' and multidirectional development to them. Rural habitat transformation is the theme in human geography generated from the fast improving 'multilevel' and 'multidirectional' stature of the rural areas.

This theme, though new in geography, has a very significant place in it, giving a feed to the researchers to develop a new vista of their researches on rural geography. Dr. R. L Singh deserves all applause and appraise for the development of this admirable theme of research. He has pioneered this type of research in India, and has opened wider venues for those interested in researches on this theme.

Since, the earth is variable, and its parts do not change in equal degrees and with equal momentum, an attempt on any part of it may give interesting factorial bases for the occurring and occurred changes on it.

Karjan is a Taluka with one town known by the same name, and 93 villages. The variability is quite obvious, as the amenities enjoyed by the town were absent in its rural components, and further, each unit area, also bears differences in physical properties, as soil, subterranean water reserves and adaptability of crops to the soils and terrain.

As I was more interested to work for my research on a rural areas, and this interest is innate as I am a ruralite with the agro-based activities as the source of survival inherited from my ancestors. My father is a defence service personnel, His off and on transfers made me to move with him for the most of my studies. This introduced me with urban taste particularly during my higher studies. I had to stay at Baroda. It made me familiar with its environs. I had a mind to work on Karjan from the day I had visited it for some of my personal work. Finally when I poised myself for the research in geography I fulfilled that long cherished desire. The selection of topic is only on the basis of the inspiration I got from the treatises of reverend Prof R. L Singh. However to the best of my knowledge and capacities I have attempted to give a little comprehensive approach to the which may be deemed to be a contribution to the existing fund of

knowledge in human geography, I also hope that it may become a source of guidance to all those who desire to work on this theme in future.

The work is ramified in six chapter of them the first is introduction and the last is summary and conclusion. From the second to the fifth are the analytical discussions of the various factors that have individually and collectively contributed to the rural habitat transformation of Karjan, and also indicate, if other things remaining the same, the futurology of the Taluka that may have the effect of transforming the present rural system into the off quoted “agropolis” – that is the vast areas with urban look having mixed but dominating agricultural activities.

Baroda

  
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