



CHAPTER - I

:INTRODUCTION:

The urban fringe development is an inevitable stage of urban development in any part of the world, with the growing population and attraction towards the city has resulted into creation of push factors in the rural areas. The urban centres have, on the other hand, provided an appeal centre for their results population in the rural areas. The urban centres grow progressively and in course of time, the cities start increasing on various sides providing incentives for such expansions. In this way the original urban cities cross their original limits and expand on the surrounding areas. This type of fringe developments are, therefore, rather inevitable part of the process of the urban development.

The urban fringe is defined by various scholars in different connotations, but with the same central theme. The urban fringe is defined as the land surrounding the town, which is not considered as a part of it, but whose use is influenced directly by the town. Mayers considers the urban fringe has a zone between the country and the city. This is a very simple definition, about urban development, almost indicating that there is a clear difference between the country side and the city side. As usual, such clear-cut borders are not to be found, but normally transferring zones are seen. Andrews defined the rural urban fringe as-' Area dividing the inner fringe, outward from the economic city, in which there is a nature mentioned all characteristically, agricultural and characteristically urban land uses. Here, he recognises the transitional character of the fringe.

Wehrewein defines a fringe as 'The area of transition between well recognised urban land use and the area devoted to agriculture'. Those definitions rely more on the land use characteristics. According to Dickinson 'The urban fringe is an area on the outer borders of the city, between the area of urban and rural land use and immediate zone'.

This definition of Dickinson given in 1960, has defined the urban fringe more clearly, because it emphasizes the mixed characteristics of the urban fringe, i.e., its rural and urban characters.

#### REASONS FOR URBAN FRINGE DEVELOPMENT:

As mentioned earlier the urban fringe development is an inevitable part of the process of urbanisation. The trends of urban fringe development have normally three important reasons:

1. There is rapid urban growth of a city due to its inherent economic strength and its important geographical location. The pulses of the growth tension in the main city has felt as influenced by the surrounding regions. The waves of urbanisation then start spreading in the surrounding regions. Wherever these factors of development are comparatively favourable, the urban expansion happens to be on that part.
2. Secondly, the cheapness of land is a reason of attraction for urban people. With the growing tension in the main city, the land values go so high, that the common people cannot afford to have pieces of land for their welfare. In this process the people try to seek bases for the surrounding regions where the land values are still lower. If these new areas are more

accessible by any mode of transport, then the quest for land is quenched in that region. The people from the urban centres, thus, move in this new area.

3. Growing cities create certain environmental problems especially, the noise pollution, air pollution, and water pollution are the common hazards in the growing cities. As the cities grow, these hazards also grow beyond certain bearable limits. To avoid these dangers, people try to move out of the dangerous regions into the rural areas which are rather free from these environmental problems.

This third reason is mostly to be found in the urban fringe development. For the Western countries with regard to London, we find that ~~the~~ many citizens of London have their 'second house' in the surrounding rural area. In those Western progressive economies, this shifting for free air and better environment is possible; but such a trend is not clearly evident in the developing countries like India. The city like Kolhapur has mainly expanded in this centre on the first two reasons mentioned above. The third reason i.e. the quest for better environmental conditions, non-polluted air, etc. has not yet shown its impact.

#### URBAN GROWTH PROCESS:

The urban centres grow from core to a fringe. When towns and cities have their natural growth, they grow into different functional zones. Every growing city has a central zone which is the core of the city, i.e., Central Business District (C.B.D.). City pollution grows and there is a development of population pressure on all functions of the city. When the city has small

people's activities are mostly dominated by their needs. As the socio-economic transformation of the city progresses, needs turn into wants, and their insistence like recreational centres, parks, luxurious articles, better living conditions, better transportation facilities increase. This results in a growing intensity of land use. The pressure on the land units increases and some inevitable stages come when land values increase to a high extent. Here the principle of 'Comparative Economic Advantage' shows its significance and the people residing in the city start thinking to acquire land of lower values, even though it may be rather away from C.B.D. This creates an inclination of the urban people to the rural areas.

Thus, urban expansion, when it starts showing its effect, is to be taken care of. If this expanding cities are not studying before under the urban expansion for the surrounding region, creates some serious problems not only for the surrounding region but also for the city itself. The problems of sanitation, transportation, housing, economic development, marketing and also the cultural development crop up in course of time, and a time comes when the problems go beyond manageable extent. We then cannot solve them in a proper manner. Example of Kolhapur city can be cited at this stage. As long back as 1944, the great city planner Shri. G. S. Desai had made certain suggestions for the development of Kolhapur city which we will analyse in foregoing chapters. However, the suggestion which is worth mentioning at this stage is caution, he gave about the pre-publicity of the town plan of the city. He had considered that the pre-publicity of the plan

must be very carefully done, otherwise, two drawbacks would crop up in:

1. Capitalists will try to grab the land from the prospective fringe area, so that they can make money when the city expands in future decades.
2. The Bureaucrats, i.e. officers and clerks, powers themselves will get this pre-publicity and try to acquire land in the future fringe areas to make money. This is very valuable caution of Shri. Desai. When there is unplanned development of a city, such drawbacks are always to be experienced.

#### LAND USE CHANGES IN THE FRINGE:

The rural areas around the cities are dominated by agricultural land use. Eighty to ninety per cent working people are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. In the beginning the villages are almost independent with these agricultural and occupational structures. The villages near the city came in contact with the city's economic activities and thus, the mutual dependence process begins. The economic flow benefits the villages in the surrounding area of the city. Villages people get employment in the city. But they continue to reside in the village. It is because of high rental values in the city. Thus, in the beginning, the villages almost merged as dormitory villages. Then forming an industry go side by side for the second phase. And industrial cropping becomes a characteristic of the agricultural land. Commercial crops, vegetables and certain crops which provide a base for industry are taken from the village land. Vegetables, fruits, flowers,

and other industrial crops occupy more and more land and replace traditional cropping methods. Thus, horticulture, floriculture, sericulture, enter the mono type of land husbandary in these rural areas. According to the influence of the city, many suburbs are created in the fringe areas. In this way, the surrounding villages pass through three important phases.

(i) Urbanising village, when the agricultural activities undergo a change from a purely household consumption oriented activities, a city market oriented farming. This is a structural change. Not only the agricultural structure changes but the occupational structure and social system also change.

(ii) Urbanised village is the second phase. In this phase, worker in the village get more and more involved in the industrial activities. The influx of population from the city is experienced by the villages and the cultural phase of the village also indicates certain changes.

(iii) The third phase is the suburban nature of the village. Here the village loses its entity and is almost merged into the urban landscape. Many urban functions dominate this newly acquired village sets and they become almost a part of the main city. It is as good as a miniature of the parent city. According to the influence of the main city and according to the potentiality of the village, such villages acquire one of the three types as follows :

- a) Functional suburbs having some important industrial or other functions of the main city.

- b) Production suburbs where independent production is undertaken.
- c) Consumption suburbs, where market is provided to the production from the main city. Thus, the growth of a city transforms the surrounding villages, phase by phase.

In this research work, the Kolhapur city and its fringe are a is spatially analised to get an idea about the expansion of the city, influence the transformation levels and nature of the surrounding villages and the repurcussions of that entire process. The Kolhapur city has a very long history, because basically, it is a historical place. It has got a local authority i.e. Municipal Corporation, for the last 128 years. And, therefore, it will be further worth mentioning, the growth process of the city, at the core area and in the fringe area. The city has been showing diversifying influence on the villages spread around it. There are social, economical, and cultural transformations taking place in the fringe area and beyond that also. Study of these certain aspects is attempted in this work.

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