



Impact of urbanisation on Tribal and non- Tribal Population of Ranchi: A case Study of Six municipal Wards

KEYWORDS

urbanisation, informality, Neighbourhood, household, Tribal, Non-tribal

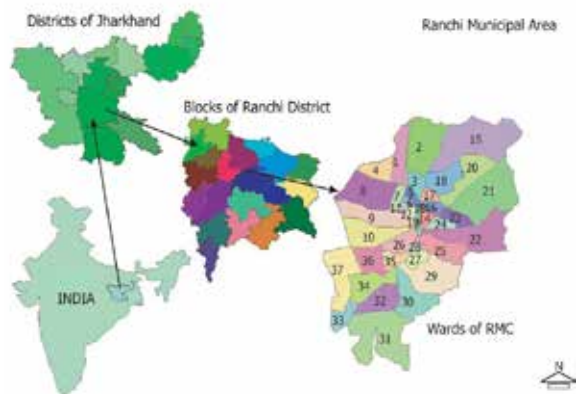
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ABSTRACT This is a primary survey based paper, investigating into the beneficial impact of waves of urbanisation as experienced by the Tribal and Non- Tribal communities in Ranchi. Ranchi being an industrialized capital city of the state of Jharkhand is in the midst of tribal population; however, it is commonly observed that they have left behind in the race of development. Six municipal wards selected in order to represent tribal as well as non- tribal dominance in terms of population.

Present paper is the result of the study undertaken to analyse the assumed differential impact of urbanisation on the tribal as well as non – tribal communities of Ranchi Municipal area.

Study Area (Six Municipal Wards of RMC)



The study was initiated on a premise that there is an intra spatial/ regional disparity and inequality in terms of availing the fruits/ benefits of the process of urbanisation among the tribal as well as the non -tribal populace of the Ranchi City. The project/study purposefully and deliberately chose to overlook the ills or the negativity or disadvantages accruing out of fast urbanisation, in terms of rising crime rate, loss of value system, nuclearisation of the families and related difficulties, rise in nature of the gender based crime, distortion in the socio- cultural milieu of the urban society etc.

METHODOLOGY:

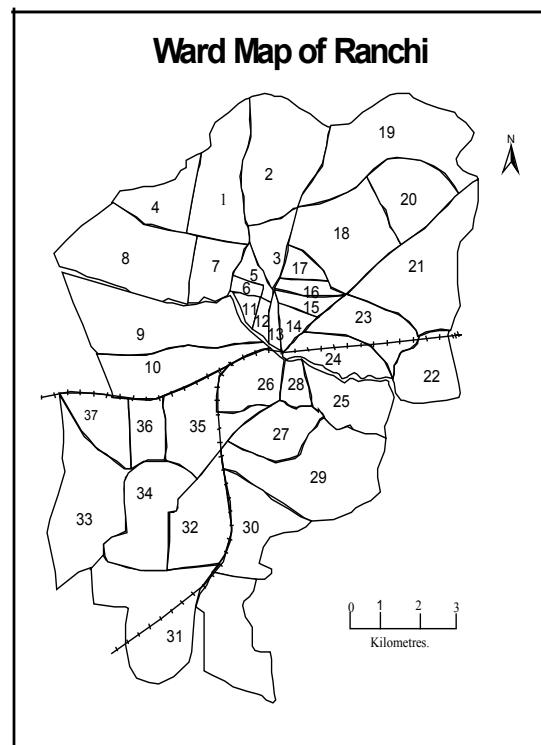
To make the study more feasible and manageable, instead of taking the whole city and selecting wards on the basis of the principles of sampling, the project confined itself on the representative study of the six Municipal wards of the city, selected on the basis of two major criteria.

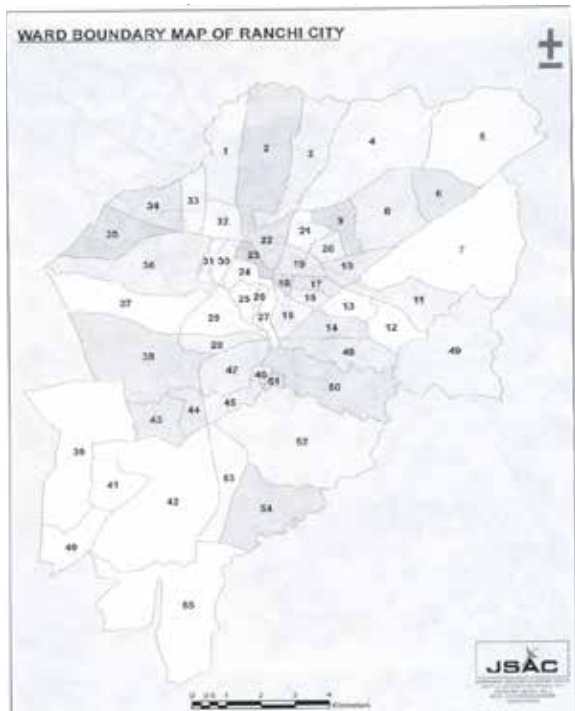
1. Spatial location of the particular Municipal ward, centrally located or peripheral spatial location. In this case set of three wards both from central as well as peripheral (named as inner and outer zone were chosen) for the study.
2. Municipal wards were selected on the basis of the demographic composition, in terms of tribal and non tribal dominance. Care was taken to select two tribal and one non- tribal dominated/majority municipal wards from inner core area and two non tribal and one tribal majority area from the peripheral our the outer zone of Ranchi city.

It is important to note here that since, 2011 census data are still not available completely the census 2001 ward wise data are taken into consideration. Sampling was done by covering 15 households in each of the six municipal wards. Since, the geographical spread and extension of a municipal ward is substantial, the survey is so designed to have a representative coverage of high income group, middle income group and low income group colonies within the ward. Spatially, speaking the intra ward Socio- economic and demographic heterogeneity is not unusual in the various municipal wards of the Ranchi Municipal Corporation. Infact, a complete homogeneous municipal ward on social, economic and spatial parameter is an extreme rarity.

The municipal ward numbering for the chosen wards were synchronized by the use of two boundary maps for the purpose of conducting the ground survey.

Fig no. 1





The availability of housing, household amenities and assets among the different socio-economic groups of Ranchi city have been analysed. Scheduled tribes and castes are primarily found to be concentrated in the low-income group colonies.

Results obtained after the gathering, processing and analyzing the primary data and comparing it with information about the wards gathered from the office of the Ranchi Municipal Corporation, the study corroborated and substantiated most of the objectives of the project.

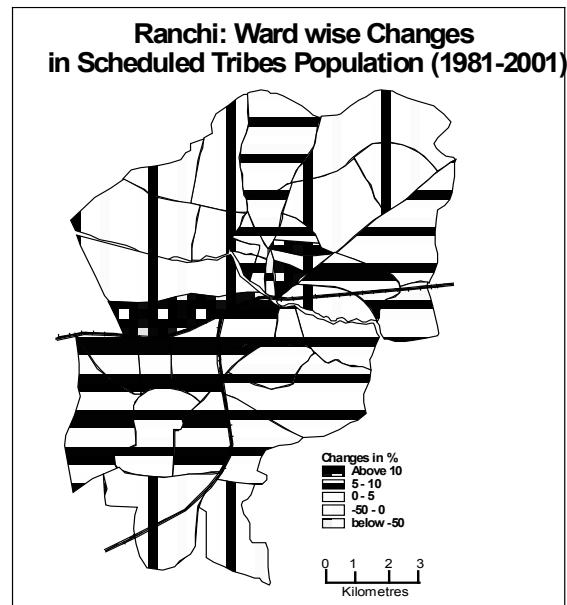
The development of an urban centre is primarily dependent on the variety of services that are available to the residents of all sections and areas. Further, not only the numbers of services are important but its convenience is also essential.

In this regard concept of neighbourhood becomes very handy. Although, there is no consensual definition of a 'neighbourhood' it is largely taken as a distance covering a radius of ten minute pedestrian walk. The facilities are in true sense assessed in terms of both availability and the distance of accessibility, providing a true glimpse of the status of the urban development.

The survey was conducted for the availability and accessibility of the services in terms of distance across the selected six municipal wards. There was genuine problem regarding the area and spread of the wards, in most of the cases, one part of the ward enjoyed better availability of services and amenities at convenient distance while another or the interior of the ward were not at such advantageous locations. In such situation it is assumed that the ward as a whole is not favourably attached to the neighbourhood services and amenities. Under the neighbourhood few services like Primary Health Centre (PHC)/Private Clinic, Primary School, Post Office, Police Station, Market, Public Distribution Shop, Bank, Play Ground, Public Library, Railway Station etc are taken into the consideration.

None of the inner zone or the outer zone municipal wards has all afore mentioned amenities and services in their vicinity. Most of the inner zone wards are way ahead in terms of neighbourhood infrastructural and logistic support to its resident population.

Fig no. 2



In terms of the housing characteristics of the six municipal wards with respect to the different social groups, viz, tribal and non-tribal demographic composition, It was found that most of the schedule tribes in tribal majority wards were residing in slum and slum like situations, Further adding substantially to the total number of the urban poor. Shortage of housing has not been a major problem in Ranchi, the percentage of households having own house was surprisingly higher in low-income group colonies of inner wards like ward no. 04 and ward no. 08 and are usually dominated by the scheduled tribes and castes. Despite this, the housing quality had been very poor and majority of their houses were made of kutcha and semi pucca building materials. These social groups had comparatively less number of rooms in their houses; their family size was quite large, which resulted in high room density. On the other hand, all the houses of high-income group colonies of non-tribal majority municipal wards, both in inner and outer zone of Ranchi were made of pucca material, most of them had more than three rooms and their family size was found to be less than five. The room density of high income groups had been relatively less. Even in the middle and lower income group colonies of non-tribal majority wards houses were largely made up of pucca material (the wall and the roof). However, it would be important to bring forth the fact that irrespective of the overall demographic composition of the municipal wards, the houses of the poor were in utterly bad shape, though among the poor the physical conditions of the houses of tribal groups were particularly very bad.

Similarly, in terms of metered electricity connection, safe drinking water (piped water, covered well, underground water), flush toilets, etc, it was observed that most of the sampled households have good access to these amenities (96 per cent of the sampled households). In terms of safe drinking water large section of the tribal population dependent heavily on wells and few have access to supply water and very few of them have deep boring in their premises. This is particularly correct with regard to the colonies of the tribal majority municipal wards both in the inner as well as in the outer zones of the city.

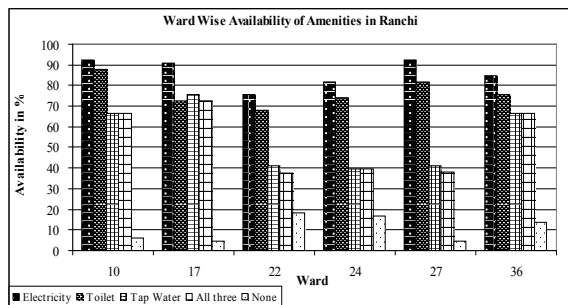
More than two third households of the sample size did not have tap water supply. They were relying on public taps, which had been very less in number compared to the household connections. The prohibiting cost of the installation charge was one of the main reasons of not getting household tap water connection. Moreover supply water from the Kanke dam in the regions of ward no. 4 and 8 along with vast geographical spread of the city, was not found up to the mark,

and many impurities in terms of total dissolved substance (TDS) was clinically tested.

The outer or the fringe areas of the city were deprived of the piped water supply and the residents of the regions have to rely heavily on the other sources, including the wells.

In the absence of toilets within the majority of households of low-income group colonies of the tribal majority wards of both inner and outer zone of the city, defecation in open is the common practice. In fact very few number of service latrines had been installed and maintained by the municipalities for the public use and were also not properly managed. The relatively poor population, however, had been rather underprivileged as they use either unhygienic toilets or the open space. The living environment of low income colonies was therefore prone to health hazards.

Fig no. 3



Source: Based on the primary survey conducted by the scholar

It has been noticed that the available services are not distributed evenly in Ranchi. Areas of high income group colonies, particularly in the non-tribal majority inner zone municipal wards, are better served than those in the outer and fringe areas. Within the city there is a large scale disparity in the provision of the services among different localities and different socio-economic groups. The peripheral areas of Ranchi had been facing the brunt of all these disadvantages. In such areas except for the electricity supply, the other utilities namely water, sewerage, garbage collection, surface drainage are often found either completely absent or of substandard quality leading to a wide variation in the quality of the residential environment in the city.

In case of the location of neighbourhood facilities such as, schools, colleges, dispensaries, hospitals, markets, play grounds, etc.; the situation varied widely from one ward to another. Study reflects that the non tribal majority inner zone wards had higher concentration of educational facilities than those of the peripheral areas. It is believed that concentration of educational facilities preferred centralised locations; however, recently due to the paucity of availability open space new educational centres are coming up in the peripheral areas of the city with large and sprawling campus. In case of medical facilities, those colonies that had a central location and commanded large neighborhoods had a higher level of health facilities. Another reason of higher concentration of health facilities in core areas had been the cost of investment. The core areas had a strong economic base with large, rich hinterlands, and this had helped the establishment of specialized facilities like Ultrasound, E.C.G. and City Scan Centres.

The availability of recreation facilities in most of the municipal wards is extremely poor. A large number of respondents have expressed the necessity of the creation of new playgrounds and parks and giving facelift to the existing ones for their children. Library and cinema halls are concentrated in a few pockets of Ranchi, particularly in vicinity of the main road of the city. These facilities are conspicuous by their absence in the sample wards. The lack of P.D.S. shop in low income group colonies is another conspicuous feature. It was found

that PDS were absent in those colonies where most of people were living below poverty line, such as in ward no. 14 and ward no.16 in the inner zone and ward no. 04 and 08 in the outer zone. Interestingly, whatever the few and far between Public Distribution Shops, they were situated in high and middle income group colonies. Ironically, the people who need these facilities the most have to travel longer distances. It was also found that inadequate drainage and improper solid waste management had resulted in a deplorable living environment in many areas of the city, particularly in the low income group colonies.

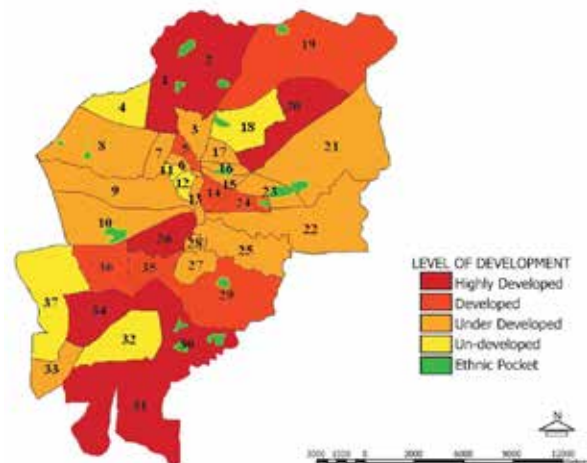
In terms of the educational level of the head of the surveyed households both in tribal and non tribal majority municipal wards and in the lower, middle and higher income group colonies, the findings were on expected lines. The high income group colonies have higher educational level with most of the respondents being graduate and post graduates, where as the low income group colonies and even the high income group colonies of tribal majority municipal wards both in the inner as well as in periphery of the town overall have lower educational degrees of the head of the sample households in comparison to the non tribal majority wards.

The correlation (Pearson's correlation co-efficient) matrix between access to household amenities, the household assets (consumption of commodities like, refrigerator, electric fan, cooler, AC, music system, own two and four wheeler, computer etc) and educational status of the head of the household and occupational structure of the household, turned out to be highly positive and significant at 0.05 level. Generally, the low income group colonies in the tribal as well as non tribal majority municipal wards have lower educational level of the head of the households having correspondingly lower commodity consumption and lower end of occupational structure as in comparison to the high income group colonies of both tribal and non tribal majority wards. It should be noted here that well off families generally having educated head is more often the case with non-tribal municipal wards than the tribal dominated ones.

The statistical analysis like 'First Principal Component' suggests that availability of sanitation facilities, electricity, safe drinking water, pucca houses and education level of head of the households had been the primary factors influencing the development of various colonies.

By the above discussion it can be concluded that availability and quality of different urban services are very much dependent upon the social and economic conditions of their residents.

Fig no. 4
Level of Development of RMC



So residents of Ranchi do not all have the same kind of availability and accessibility of different amenities and services.

Residents of few colonies/ wards having better education and better source of income are enjoying the wide range of services and facilities, while others, which do not have educational qualification and working in very low paid jobs, are living in disadvantageous spatial locations in terms of facilities and services.

With a new trend emerging about the ability to pay the 'user charges', government authorities are reluctant in providing new amenities and services to lower income regions, where the economic abilities of the resident population to pay the user charges is questioned. This kind of trend is largely emerging with projects initiated under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. In Ranchi this trend is gradually becoming

conspicuous; however, the expansion of basic urban services to all the nook and corner of the city is the sole responsibility of the Ranchi municipal corporation. Nevertheless, there are ample evidences to believe that even RMC takes into consideration and thinks twice the economic status of a particular spatial region of the city before providing it with the basic urban amenities and facilities. The taxpaying capacity of the resident population and revenue generation of the RMC varies from localities to localities based upon their socio-economic status. This kind of selective, biased development process mars the concept of welfare state and creates pockets of affluence and depressions in the city. This trend should be immediately arrested so that the social and cultural milieu of the city could be preserved.

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