



Flow of Ideas and Capital and Their Impact on Urban-Rural Relations in Hisar District of Haryana: A Geographical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to analyse geographically the flow of ideas and capital and their impact on urban-rural relations in Hisar district of Haryana. Here Newspapers, magazines and telephones have been used as indicators of flow of ideas; whereas banks and agricultural societies have been used as indicators of flow of capital in the district. Secondary data has been used for these indicators at village level for the year 2001. As a result of the study, around two-third of the villages were subscribing for newspapers and telephones and one-third for magazines in district strengthening urban-rural relations through exchange of ideas. Branches of various banks and agricultural credit societies opened in rural areas of the district made Green Revolution a success story by providing loans and subsidies. One-sixth of the total villages were having banking facility and 62 per cent villages were having agricultural credit societies in 2001 in the district further giving boost to urban-rural relations.

KEYWORDS

Flow, Ideas, Capital, strengthening, relations

Introduction

Urban-rural relations encompass a continuum of people, goods, money, technology, information and ideas (O' Connor 1983; Gould 1985; Dixon 1987). Flow of ideas refers to dissemination of ideas from urban centres to rural areas through various sources of media and telecommunication bringing urban and rural areas closer to each other. Moreover, flow of capital takes place in the form of loans and subsidies from banks and agricultural credit societies. This money is used to buy agricultural inputs and then outputs are sold to the urban markets. Fisher (1939) and Rondinelli (1983) had also given significant importance to monetary linkages in urban-rural interaction. Lynch (2004) focussed on complexity of urban-rural relations within the developing world while examining a range of interactions between urban and rural areas considering the flow of people, money and ideas in either direction. In this case, we have taken the case study of Hisar District in Haryana and have seen the spatial patterns of various sources of flow of capital and ideas and their impact on urban-rural relations.

Objective:

Objective of this paper is to analyse geographically the flow of ideas and capital and their impact on urban-rural relations in Hisar district of Haryana.

Study Area

Hisar is situated between 28°53'45" to 29°49'15"N latitudes and 75°13'15" to 76°18'15" E longitudes. Its climate can be classified as semi-arid and hot. There is no natural drainage in the district but the area is drained by network of Bhakra and Western Yamuna Canal Systems (Gazetteer, 1987). It is predominantly an agricultural district.

Data Base and Methodology

The study is based on secondary data which has been procured from the District Census Handbook: Village and Town Directory 2001. Census 2001 gives information on: (i) Newspapers and Magazines (ii) Telephones (iii) Banks and (iv) Agriculture Credit Societies. These indicators have been used as assessment parameters for promoting free flow of ideas and capital. Spatial patterns of these indicators have also been discussed while describing their impact on urban-rural relations in 2001.

I. Newspapers and Magazines

Supply of newspapers and magazines has been taken as an indicator of free flow of ideas in the society. Every aspect of

life is covered in these newspapers and magazines; be it social, cultural, economical and political. Day to day events find publication in these papers and magazines. Not only news but advertisements regarding different products launched in the market and various advertisements regarding employment also find place in these sources of media.

City-editions of the newspapers make rural population aware of the city life and happenings in their surroundings. Though newspapers reach the villages in limited number, yet make people aware of the prices of their produce and market trends. Moreover, reading the same paper leads to a certain dependence on the town where the paper is published. This helps in strengthening urban-rural relations (Garnier and Chabot 1967).

Newspapers may be daily or weekly. However, the daily paper still remains the most effective instrument of urban opinion. First Hindi Weekly, published in 1948 from Hisar, was 'Gyanodaya' dealing with news and current affairs. 'Haryana Sandesh' (Hindi Weekly) in 1950, 'Waqt-Ki-Awaj' (1953) and 'Yuwak Wani' (1960) were also weeklies. Hindi Magazine 'Amar Jyoti' and 'Adarsh Balpatrika' in English and Hindi (1950 and 1955) were monthly magazines. 'Morning Star' was Quarterly magazine (Gazetteer, 1987). Now, a number of publications are coming in the market from Hisar further strengthening the urban-rural relations.

Spatial Pattern of Newspapers and Magazines: 2001

178 or around two-third of the total 272 villages were having newspaper supply in the district. Out of these 178 villages, 97 were supplied with newspapers only and 81 villages were having supply of newspapers as well as magazines. Thus, around 30 per cent villages were having supply of both newspapers and magazines. 94 villages or around one-third (34 per cent) of the total villages were devoid of any of these facilities (Map 6.1).

The villages with supply of newspaper were scattered throughout the district irrespective of their distance from urban centre. However, their distribution was less frequent in the south-western part of the district because of socio-economic backwardness due to physiographic reasons in that part. Though accessibility was not a problem for any village by this time, yet most of the villages on or around major transport routes were having newspaper supply because of their better connectivity.

Pockets of the villages with magazine distribution were mostly in the outer parts of the district except a few villages around Hansi and Hisar city. These were mainly distributed around Adampur (rural service centre), Narnaund and Uklana towns. These villages were also located on or around major transport routes.

II. Telephone

Telephones are the result of later day development in information technology. Earlier, their use was confined to urban centres only. In villages, their use started in 1990s; during eleventh plan, even broadband connections were being provided in rural areas along with the landline connections. Most of the villages are now connected with telephones. Villagers can ask for the prices of their produce on telephone and can save their precious time. Village shopkeepers can place the order on phone for supply of commodities sold in their shops. 'To what extent the region utilizes the services of its urban centre and to what extent it provides for its own needs'. This was done by W. Christaller, who was the first to use an indirect procedure, based on the use of the telephone. However, spatial pattern of telephone connections for the year 2001 in district Hisar has been discussed below.

Spatial Patterns of Telephone Connections: 2001

181 or two-third of the total 272 villages are endowed with telephone facility in the district. Although the villages with telephone facility are scattered throughout the district, yet their major concentration is found surrounding Hisar city because of early advancement in these villages under the urban influence of district headquarter (Map 6.2).

III. Banks and Agricultural Credit Societies

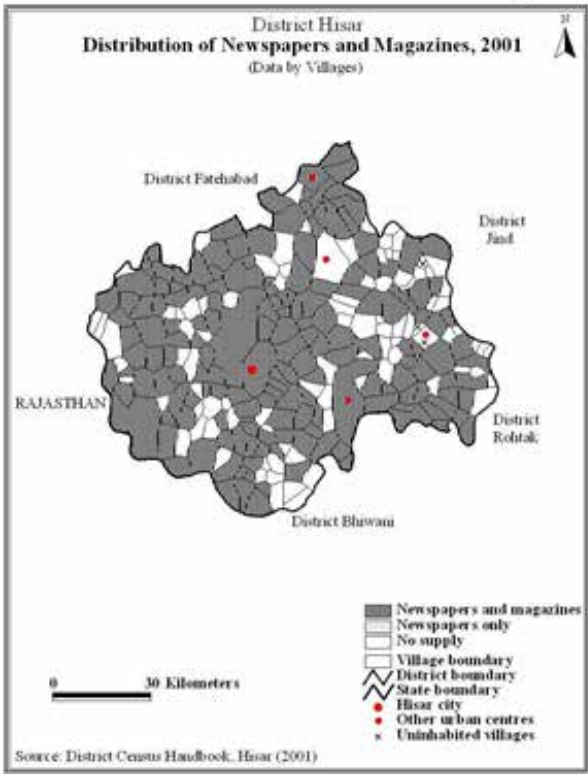
After nationalization of major banks in 1969, banking industry entered the field of integrated rural credit. The banks and different co-operative credit institutions have endeavoured to be responsive to the needs of rural people.

Co-operative movement in the district was introduced in 1904 with the enactment of Co-operative Societies Act and the subsequent Act of 1912 with the main objective of providing relief to the rural peasantry from heavy burden of indebtedness from moneylenders. After the enactments of 1954 and 1961, the cooperative structure occupied a pre-eminent position in the institutional frame work of the agricultural credit. In district Hisar (1977-78) also, there were 339 primary agricultural cooperative credit societies with a membership of 1,18,765 for short and medium term loans (Gazetteer,1987).

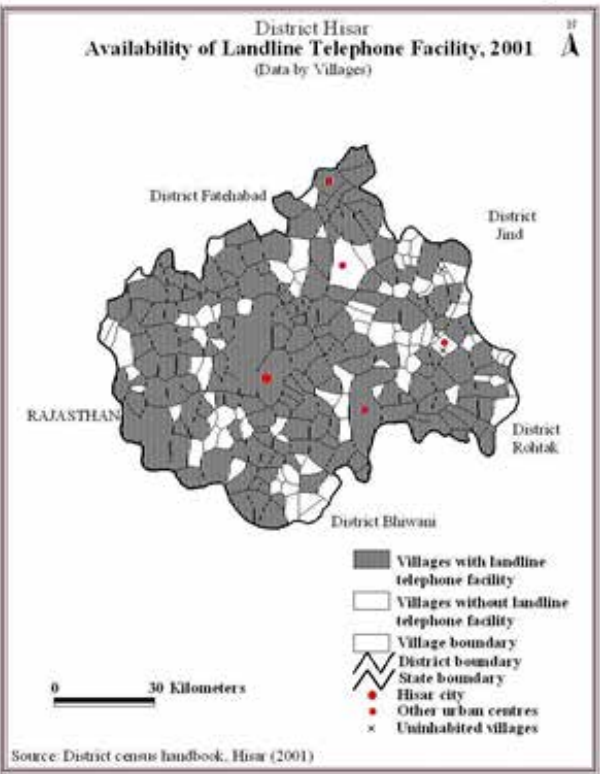
Primary Land Development Banks were organized for the purpose of providing long term credit to farmers. But rapid expansion of branches of various banks happened in semi-urban and rural areas of the district after formation of Haryana, which coincides with the initiation of Green Revolution. Success of Green revolution can be credited to these societies and banks to a major extent because of the vital role played by them in adoption of modern techniques by providing loans and subsidies.

The use of improved techniques in agriculture facilitated by these loans and subsidies has put the villagers in greater

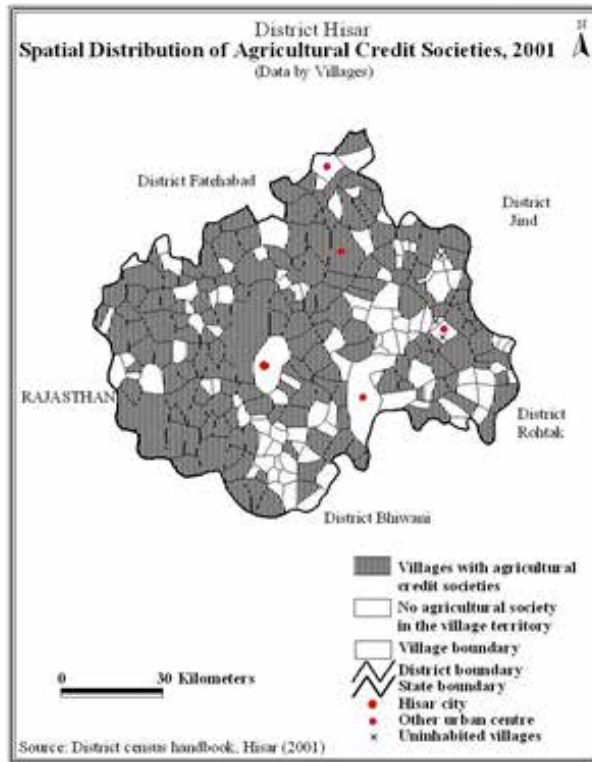
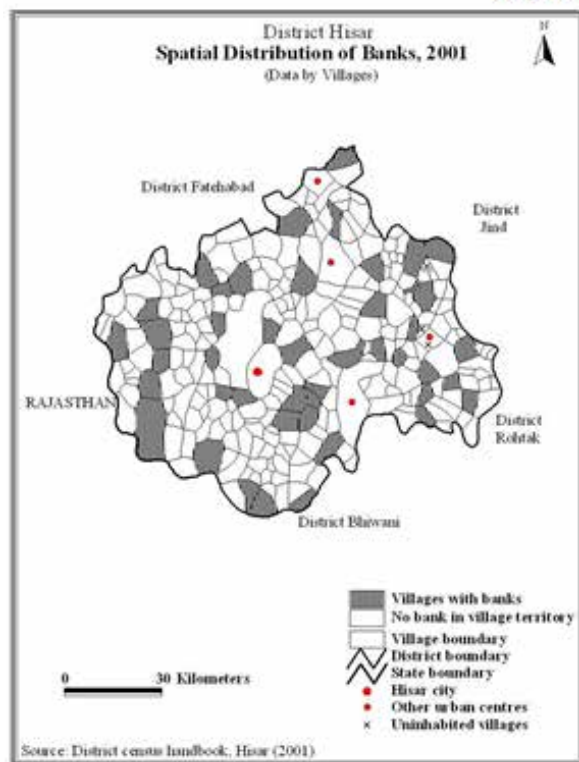
Map 6.1



Map 6.2



Map 6.3



contact with the urban service centres. Modern banking facilities are used for purchasing tractors and other agricultural equipments and inputs. Earlier, as concludes from the above discussion, banking facilities were available in urban centres only but now banks and agriculture credit societies have their centres in villages also. Earlier money flowed from the town banks to the village people in the form of subsidies and loans up to a limited extent, which is now easily available in village itself or nearby village. With the help of these loans, even small farmers are able to produce good crops and are involved in town markets for the disposal of this produce and in return buy agricultural inputs; giving a further boost to the urban-rural interaction process. However, spatial patterns (2001) of Banks and Agricultural Credit Societies in the district have been discussed below.

Spatial Pattern of Banks: 2001

45 or one-sixth of the total 272 villages were having banking facility (commercial or cooperative or both). These were scattered throughout the district proportionately so as to provide banking facility to maximum number of villages (Map 6.3).

Spatial Pattern of Agricultural Credit Societies: 2001

170 or 62 per cent of the total 272 villages have facility of agricultural credit societies. These are distributed throughout the district to provide loan facilities for agriculture. However, two pockets of villages, one in the north-east of Hansi and the other in the south of Hisar city, have less concentration of agricultural credit societies (Map 6.4).

In sum, Newspapers, magazines and telephones as indicators of flow of ideas are helpful for the villagers to know their surroundings, about various jobs, products and other social, economic, cultural and political aspects of life strengthening urban-rural interaction. In district Hisar, around two-third of the villages were subscribing for newspapers and telephones and one-third for magazines. More and more branches of various banks were opened in rural areas of the district after formation of Haryana and mainly after nationalization of banks in 1969 making Green Revolution a success story by providing loans and subsidies. One-sixth of the total villages were having banking facility in 2001. In addition to banks, many agricultural credit societies were also set up for short and medium term loans even in villages after formation of Haryana. As a result, 62 per cent villages were having agricultural credit societies in 2001 further strengthening the urban-rural relations.

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