

## Abstract

Rapid and unplanned growth outside the urban peripheries is a threat to the sustainable development of a region, and hence, exploring the dynamics of peri-urbanisation is of concern to the policy-makers. In the case of peri-urban villages within metropolitan regions, it is essential to engage in planning and policy making with a social perspective for long-term benefits. Unlike their counterparts situated in the countryside, the vulnerabilities of these villages are higher and they require a comprehensive analysis of the physical and natural environment, socio-economic trends, and other related features. The phenomenon of peri-urban development is relatively recent in India, and there is a lack of institutional instruments for resolving the associated problems in the villages situated in these areas. The case of Bhiwandi Surrounding Notified Area, that is a cluster of 60 villages within Mumbai Metropolitan Region, is considered in this study. The administrative setup at the local level is found to be inadequate for providing the required services corresponding to the urbanisation taking place in these villages. This research builds on the idea that the existing self-help groups (SHGs) of women, with their ground level connection to the local community, have the potential to act as important community stakeholders in developing a participatory mechanism for sanitation and waste management in the peri-urban villages. This study explores effective local mechanisms to support the role of SHGs in particular, and the community in general, towards assessing the needs and delivering basic services in these villages. The required institutional setup at the metropolitan regional level is also researched upon to contribute to the debate on balanced regional development.

This dissertation can be divided into eight chapters as follows:

*Chapter 1* presents an introduction to the issues of urbanisation and peri-urban development, and frames the background of research. It details the problem area, research objectives, and the structure of dissertation.

*Chapter 2* consists of a literature review of concepts related to spatial planning and other socio-institutional approaches used in the study. It details the case study area, research design and the methods used for data collection and analyses.

*Chapter 3* presents an institutional mapping conducted for the entire metropolitan region. The existing schemes and policies of the national level and state level government are also reviewed.

*Chapter 4* provides a theoretical review of the drivers of urbanisation in the study area. Variables are selected by conducting a detailed review of existing literature, and interview surveys. A measure of relative urbanisation is developed and applied, followed by a theoretical analysis of the pattern of development in the study area.

*Chapter 5* discusses the existing level of provision of basic services in the five case study villages. Results from household surveys, and primary data collection from rural local bodies are provided.

*Chapter 6* presents a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the potential of women from SHGs to contribute towards the provision of sanitation and waste management in the peri-urban villages. A workshop methodology was developed and conducted in one case study village. Results from the workshop are analysed to determine the policy initiatives necessary for institutionalising SHG involvement in the system.

*Chapter 7* integrates the inferences from the preceding chapters to come up with recommendations at the regional and local levels for improving the planning for peri-urban villages. It highlights policy proposals at all administrative levels for developing an efficient peri-urban planning mechanism with social and institutional considerations.

*Chapter 8* provides a summary of the research and highlights the key findings from the study. It draws outlines the theoretical contributions through this study, and also discusses the limitations of this research and avenues for future research on the topic.

The regional level recommendations focus more on the institutional setup building, whereas the local level recommendations focus more on the social opportunities in mobilising resources for planning and management of basic service provision. The proposed strategies in this study will also be critical steps for attaining positive results towards the Sustainable Development Goals by India. This research is a step towards making the peri-urban problems visible to and recognised in the formal planning system in India.

**Keywords:**

Basic service provision, institutional strengthening, peri-urban villages, self-help groups, service co-production