

ANNOTATIONS

interesting and important to all involved. For this reason the value of the project and the value of the seminar for interdisciplinary training are closely allied. (p. 313)

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INDIA'S URBAN FUTURE

Turner Roy (Ed.): *INDIA'S URBAN FUTURE*. Selected Studies from an International Conference, sponsored by Kingsley Davis, Richard L. Park, and Catherine B. Wurster. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1962, 470 pp.

URBANIZATION in the newly developing densely populated countries poses a challenge to the policy makers and planners. The process of urbanization is stimulated by and in turn advances economic development, but has not received the discrete recognition it deserved in the national plans so far. The international conference, or rather the U.S.-India seminar organised through Ford Foundation support at California in July, 1960, on which the present volume reports, was thus timely. The purpose of the seminar was to get the social scientists, the planners and policy makers together, and try to move to some consensus regarding the nature of the processes at work, the probable outcome of the current trends, and their implications. Though India was chosen for the case study and much of the deliberations are specific to Indian conditions, the formulation of the problem, the alternative forms of urbanization visualized and the operational priorities discussed, will find application to most developing countries at the threshold of industrialization.

The volume contains 23 selected papers contributed for the seminar (including the editor's post script), a preface from

the sponsors, and an index. The matter is arranged in five parts, with some inevitable overlap in subject content. Part 1 consists of two papers (chapters) on the past and probable future urban population distribution of India; Part 2, of five papers, on the morphology of Indian cities, the extent of the urban impact, and city-hinterland relationships. Part 3 contains eight papers dealing with the inter-relation between urbanization and economic development, problems of decentralization, and structural aspects of alternate forms of urbanization; Part 4 in seven papers continues the discussion on the problems of planning, administration and subsequent operation of integrated urban-rural or regional development. Part 5 contains a survey of the literature relevant to urbanization in India, and the editor's summing up in the post-script.

In the opening chapter, Kingsley Davis examines past Indian urbanization trends, and presents estimates of future urban growth in India on the basis of UN population projections and empirical US or logistic growth models; in Chapter II, Donald J. Bogue and K. C. Zachariah follow with estimates of 1941-50 inter-censal rural to urban migration for Indian districts, and give a few characteristics of the migrants. These two papers will be of particular interest to students of population change. The 1961 census count in India, however, disclosed a sliding back in urban growth during the 1951-60 decade as compared with the previous, and the proportion urban moved from 16 per cent in 1951 to only about 18 per cent in 1961; a revaluation of the future estimates is thus called for. Moreover, reliance on the rank-size rule by Davis in estimating the emerging size of leading cities like Calcutta and Bombay, introduces too glaring a disparity; more sophisticated methods of analysis are indicated in the heterogeneous Indian situation. One would have expected at least some reference to the wealth of rural-urban migration data available from the National Sample Surveys of India; TABLES WITH NOTES ON INTERNAL MIGRATION, since published in National Sample Survey, Report No. 53, was in circulation as a draft since March, 1960.

Richard A. Ellefsen makes effective use of simple indicators like density, literacy and occupational composition, in the absence of elaborate socio-economic data, to investigate city-

hinterland relationships (Chapter V); he found the urban fringe of the Indian cities much narrower, even their immediate hinterland not extending much further than the average American urban fringe. John E. Brush observed extreme concentration and abrupt population density gradients within the Indian cities (Chapter III). Richard D. Lambert propounds the thesis (Chapter VI) that, contrary to the expectations of many social scientists, Indian cities may fail to act as efficient catalysts for inducting social changes—unless accompanied by massive programs of industrialization, as the existing rural-urban relationships rather work to attenuate the urban impact. Bert F. Hoselitz in his comparative study of the role of urbanization (Chapter VIII) also draws attention to this cleavage between the urban and the rural in India, and concludes that, in spite of demographic similarities, the economic and social correlates of modern Indian urbanization were significantly different from past European counterpart.

The key issue or controversy in policy-making and planning with regard to Indian urbanization finds expression in Sachin Chaudhuri's paper (Chapter XI) on centralization versus various forms of decentralization. Tarlok Singh outlines the broad objectives of balanced urban-rural or regional development in the context of accepted social goals (Chapter XVI), and Pitambar Pant presents the urbanization perspective of Indian planning with estimated costs of future urban development (Chapter IX)—Rs. 1600 or \$330 per person, which many will consider optimistically low. The importance attaching to techniques for low-cost urbanization was further emphasized by Asoka Mehta (Chapter XXII), whose accent lay on simplicity and utility in future Indian city development to reduce disparity between city and rural tracts—providing for sub-standard level of housing, for example, compensated by more ample civic amenities and attractive community centers.

An answer to this quest for simple and functional form of urbanization is offered by Richard L. Meier in his design of an unconventional urban megapolis or multi-nucleated aggregation of urban-village cells (Chapter XV); he starts from the components of a minimum adequate standard of living and does some bold thinking to outline a model of community

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organization that might meet the coming urban surge in the densely populated developing countries. Albert Mayer, in two papers (Chapters XVII and XXI) on the problems of implementation and subsequent operation of urban-regional development programs in India, focuses attention on the collateral and overall effects, of which any particular physical plan is only a fulcrum. He makes some well-reasoned suggestions for improving the plan's administration machinery, urges more extensive action-research, and explains the importance of long range industrial employment and adequate land reserves for operational fulfillment. There are a number of other interesting studies, reference to which is not possible in this short review.

A summary of the discussions at the seminar would have enhanced the value of the report. Whether some consensus was reached at the seminar or not (about which the editor and a sponsor disagreed), the studies no doubt help in understanding different facets of the problem, and of the complexities involved in their solution.

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