

Planning for Human Settlements in the India-Spatial Perspective

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Abstract

This paper examines the basis upon which rural and urban areas are classified as such. It looks into various criteria for the above all over the world and re-iterates the Indian definition of an 'urban' area. It then examines the role of cities and urban areas as engines of growth and specifies the need for developing rural-urban linkages and planning in a spatial perspective.

Subsequently, this paper develops into the intricacies of Dr. Kalam's PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) model- the various types of rural-urban and inter rural connectivity it is intended to generate, its aims and its feasibility constraints. It also looks into successful episodes of private investment in rural areas and the projects that have been proposed on the basis of the PURA model. Moreover, it examines the role of SEZs in societal transformation through PURA and presents an alternative- Atanu Dey's RISC (Rural Infrastructure Services Commons) model. Finally, it takes a brief look at rural-urban linkage based programmes on an international level.

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