

Semi-Urban Society–A Solution to Reduce the difference between Urban Rich and Urban Poor

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Abstract— *There is a saying money makes money. But in reality the true strength that money has is the ability to provide multiple skill sets. The only reason why the difference between the urban poor and the urban rich is increasing is the fact that an urban rich can tap or rent a whole array of skill sets to increase their profit margin, but on the other hand the urban poor has only the skills that he has learned over time. In addition to that the poor has liabilities which take up most of his earnings in comparison to the urban rich who has to take care of luxuries.*

The power that money has can be achieved by uniting a group of people into a community that work for communal gain rather than individual gain. As architects an environment can be so designed which is both balanced and cultivating by understanding the needs and creating a structure along with a self-sustaining and replenishing infrastructure to support the growth.

1. INTRODUCTION

The financial differences between the urban poor and urban rich can be overcome by simply increasing the earnings of the urban poor and reducing his expenditure. But the complexity of the problem has its roots embedded deep in an individual's psychology. Before we come to conclusions as to what are the best methods to resolve this problem we need to understand a few basic reasons as to why this problem was born.

As a byproduct of urbanization and globalization a trend in which people living in villages started to relocate themselves to the cities. This massive relocation caused an imbalance between the population of the city and the job vacancies these cities had. Due to this imbalance, the urban rich started to exploit the people searching for job. This is the root cause for the ever growing difference between the urban rich and the urban poor.

Now the question rises as to why did people living in villages started to move to the cities, what were the factors that forced them to leave, what were the reasons that attracted them towards the cities.

2. REASONS FOR THE MIGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM RURAL BACKGROUND TO URBAN AREAS

There are several reasons and factors that act as an influence for a person to move to an urban setup, from a rural background. Fig 1 shows a schematic representation of the major factors. As the environment in the rural setup is not up to the mark when compared to the urban area the environment plays a major role, it won't be wrong to say that urban areas because of its infrastructure and facilities provides a hope for a better life.

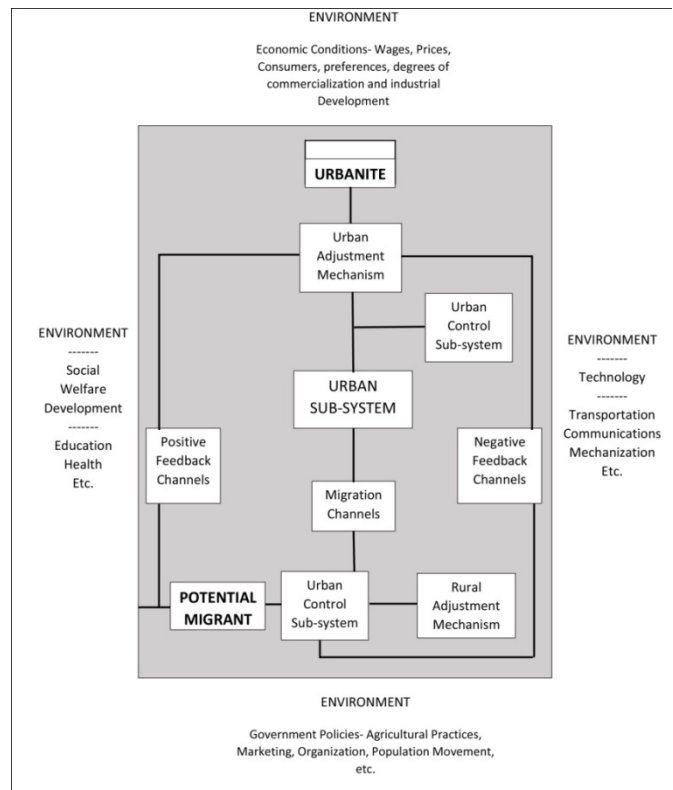


Fig. 1: A system Scheme for a Theory of Rural-Urban Migration

A control sub-system is one which oversees the operation of the general system and determines when and how to increase or decrease the amount of flow in the system. In the rural areas, a true control sub-system would, of course, be the family, both nuclear and extended. In the first place, it is the family that holds back potential migrants until they are old enough to under-take the move. Even when they are of an age to move, the family still acts as a control sub-system in many ways. In some places, it enables members of both sexes to move out; in others, members of one sex tend to get away more easily than those of the other. Apart from the family, the village community itself may act as a control sub-system.

Communities controlling role is not often direct but is obvious in either a positive or negative way in the various activities which it sponsors or encourages. Thus for example, a village community which attempts to improve its economic conditions, for instance, through co-operative farming or marketing, may discourage, at least in the short-run, permanent migration. On the other hand, a village community which puts emphasis on social betterment, for example, through education, may inadvertently stimulate migration to the city through training the younger generation to be more enlightened and more highly motivated.

The urban control sub-system operates at the opposite end of the migrant’s trajectory to encourage or discourage his being absorbed into the urban environment. Absorption at this level is of two kinds: residential and occupational. Basically, the control sub-system here can be identified with the city administration and other employment agencies, the city administration controls the housing and transportation conditions in that city and employment agencies are responsible for providing lively hood and occupation at all levels in the city structure.

Both these control sub-system operates in tandem creating feedbacks, the nature of these feedbacks then influences the migration rate for a particular city. At both the village and the city level, the decision of the migrant to move from or to move into the community sets in motion a series of adjustments, these adjustments can be made easy or hard by the community and the government hence effecting the rate of the migration to a city.

A city is a place where everyone is trying to sell specialized skill. The more specialized the skill, the greater the demand for it, and hence the higher the price it commands on the market. The urban rich have an upper hand in this setup as they are better educated and aware of the conditions. The true reason for the ever growing difference between the urban rich and the urban poor is that the urban rich can hire or rent these specialized skill set at very nominal cost and create a product which has a higher degree of complexity, hence the urban rich commands maximum profit share.

From the above data it is clear that migration from a rural to an urban environment is a very big step, this difference and

the capitalist nature at the urban platform makes the transition even harder, hence causing exploitation, resulting in an ever growing difference between the urban poor and the urban rich. A logical solution to this problem might be to create an intermediate step that assist and smoothens this transition. The concept is to create a semi urban society that works on a mutually benefiting principals of coexistence and a united communal living structure.

3. SCHEME STRUCTURE SYNDICATE

The aim of this sub system is to effectively bridge the gap between the urban rich and the urban poor as fast as possible and insure that this problem does not surface again. A key aspect of this semi-urban system is that it intends to increase the potential income of the migrant and reduce the effective expenditure that has to be borne by the migrant. As said by Albert Einstein “Everyone is a genius, but asking a fish to climb a tree is our foolishness,” everyone has talents and can achieve greatness in a field of his interest. The program aims to provide a platform that insures that everyone has a job and an informal training/experience in the professional field of their choice under some sort of experienced guidance, which would nurture their talents and improve their skills.

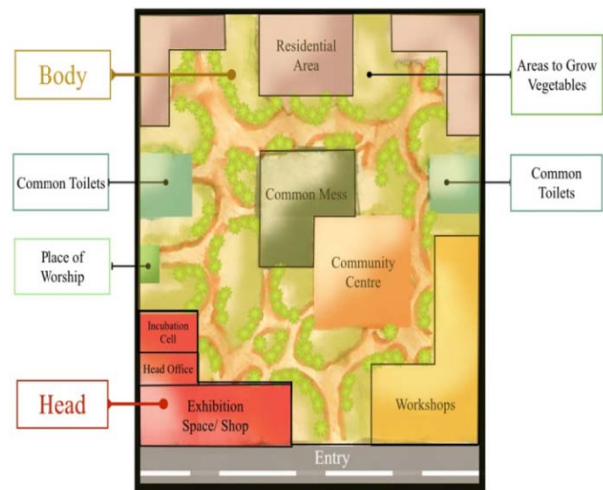


Fig. 2: Conceptual Model for the Semi-Urban Society

This structure has two major parts; body and head. As explained in the (fig. 2.) the body is a place where each member lives, works and learns the skills that they wish to acquire and expertise. The head is a place which interacts with the rest of the world, it deals majorly with all the monitory transactions of the society. The head takes care of the specific requirement of the society.

The system aims to reduce the effective cost of living simultaneously encouraging a communal living and a peaceful life. To achieve this aim some interventions and ideas might

be useful. Under mentioned are the ideas that can effectively bring down the running cost or improve the living conditions.

Construction:-All construction will be done with locally available, sustainable and green materials such as bamboo, mud and ferrocement. It could reduce the construction cost by 20%.

1. Boundary Wall:-Three layers of living bamboo shoot running in line forms the boundary. Bamboo is a fast growing grass and in every five is ready for harvest. Each bamboo shoots can be process into products which then can be sold for 30,000 - 40,000 INR. Thereby converting the boundary-wall from a liability to an asset.
2. The shop, is connected via internet to sell and advertise its products, with some supporting system, online trading and brand publicity is also possible making the system more efficient and globally accessible.
3. Platform to nourish and enhance traditional art and handicraft are provided at workshops. This way a huge variety of dying art and crafts of rural area finds a way to interact with the outside world.

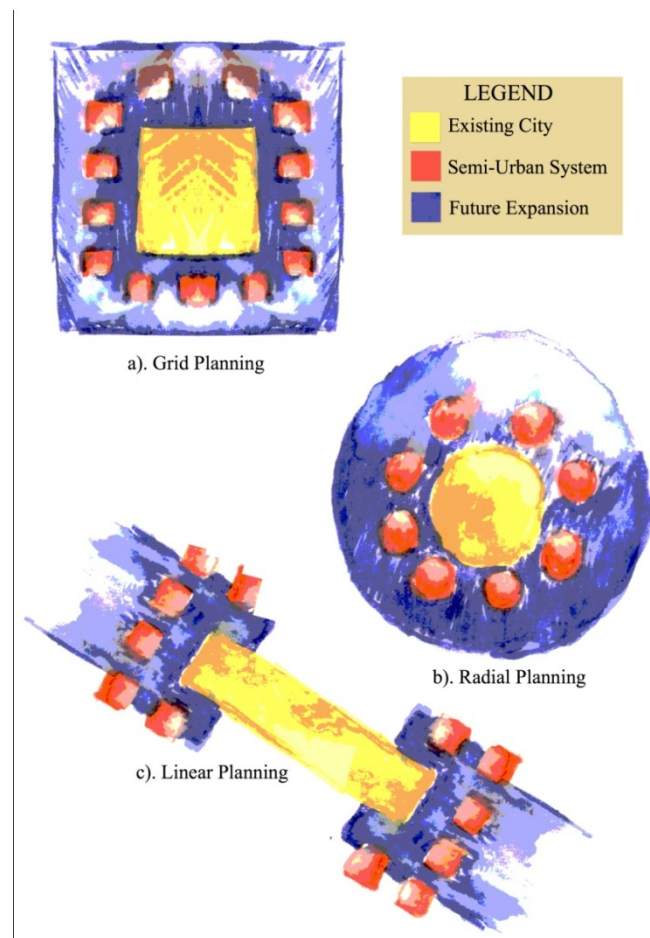


Fig. 3: Conceptual Model for expansion plan

4. As most of the rural migrants have a good knowledge of farming, residual land can be converted into kitchen gardens for to grow sessional vegetables which will assist in daily cost reduction.
5. Recreational activities such as communal singing and celebration alone with spiritual guidance is also a very important aspect of living a balanced and a contempt life. This would help defuse the stress and incarnate the feeling of oneness among the community. It would also help in keeping alive the traditional song and music.
6. The society will work on a mentorship basis, everyone will be asked to learn and to teach. This would ensure that the workmanship and the skill set of every individual keeps on improving and this craftsmanship is passed from one person to another.
7. The system works on the principal that all work is important and equal so any profit that is earned by the system shall be shared by the community evenly based on the skills that they possess. This will make the system fair for all its inhabitants.
8. The system is designed to accommodate and fit into all sorts of planning be it radial, longitudinal or grid. It is designed to adapt to according to the future expansion of the city. (fig. 3.)

4. CONCLUSIONS

By adapting this method we can very efficiently bridge the gap between the urban poor and the urban rich. The semi-urban society shall provide a grooming multidimensional environment for migrants interested in various felids like culinary arts, construction, management, system engineers, logistics, maintains, nursing and crafts such as stone work, carpentry, weaving and garments, etc., to harness and improve their skills and to avoid exploitation. The system shall act as an intermediate step that shall smoothen out the transition from the rural environment to the urban environment without putting any sort of burden on the migrants both financially and emotionally. The system is designed to be self-sustaining and would also provide a platform for musicians and artisans to preform there by keeping the traditions alive.

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