



DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN CENTERS IN SHAHABAD REGION : A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

KEYWORDS:

INTRODUCTION

Urbanization involves several dimensions such as time dimension, spatial dimension, and socio-cultural dimension. Time dimension is given more importance than other dimensions of urbanizations. In the present research trust is on spatial dimension of urbanizations, in other words town as distributional feature. Towns are distributed on the space as an important element so the spatial analysis is of vital importance for urban analysts. The spatial element presents a vision perhaps the most sensitive and capable to revert the wholeness of the prevailing socio-economic spatial system.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

The following are the main objective of the research paper:

1. To know about urban centers in Shahabad regions
2. To analyze population growth of urban centers in Shahabad regions
3. To evaluate the hierarchy of towns

METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data, print & electronic media, observation & intensive library work, books, magazines & daily newspapers etc are important source of data. Data have been analyzed by different statistical measures and represented by suitable maps & diagrams.

HYPOTHESES

The urban population is growing at much faster rate than the population as a whole and by larger annual increments than ever before. By the early years of the next century most of the people in the world will live in urban areas. In the most developing regions, the proportion of people living in the largest cities is also increasing. Hence I am trying to locate the urban centres in study area and present the tendency of urban centres to multiply their population growth.

STUDY AREA

The study area is restricted to Shahabad regions which forms part of south Bihar plains. It is a micro geographical region located in middle Ganga plain, one of the meso level regions. The study area is located between 24°46'N to 25°56'N latitude and 83°19'E to 84°45'E longitude. The study area is situated on the western border of Bihar state. It is bounded on the north by the district of Gazipur & Ballia in Uttar Pradesh and Saran in the north Bihar, the river Ganga fences it on north as well as north-west for some extent and forms natural boundary. The river Karamnasa bounds it on the west for a considerable length.

The study area is comprised of four districts namely Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas & Bhabhua.

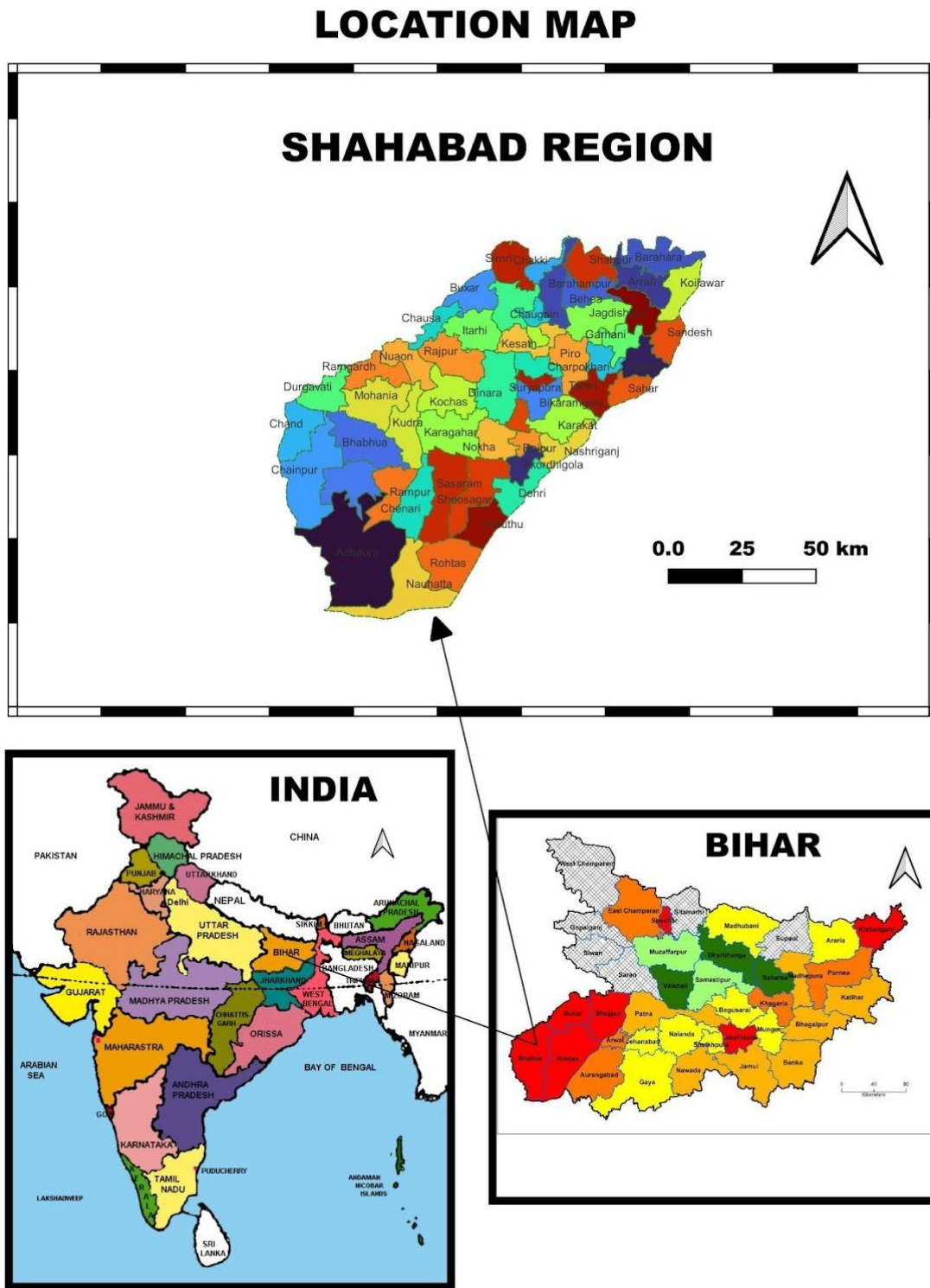


FIG 1

DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN CENTERS IN SHAHABAD REGION

The state level analysis of pattern of urbanization is meaningful for planner’s policymakers and administrators.

As urban affairs is essentially a state subject matter in Indian constitution. However the variation in state levels and patterns of urbanization between states reveal only a partial picture. States and Union Territories are manmade areal units, some are very large and some are indeed to

small. For better understanding of the urbanization pattern it is necessary to discard the state as an aerial unit. Being a growth process outcome, urbanization happens to be a temporal event and it has been found to be on any scale essentially resent. It is equally a contemporary phenomenon of spatial system. Any geographical analysis in spatial system relates more to any other issue than to distribution of things and no truth is more conceivable than in unevenness in distribution. Not only this, the unevenness in distribution defails the logic of randomness and the things and the phenomena of distribution are found at right place topographically and geographically conditioned.

The urban phenomenon beings with the phenomenon of concentration reflected in emerges of urban center. The point of assembly as the urban center has been designated has proved to signify a temporal spatial event. The urban center emerges to be both a container and magnet. It tends to choose location over space. In its temporal- spatial dimension urban centers behave, therefore to be point of distribution. By virtue of their qualities to multiply in number, to grow in size and to act as a spatial force, in varying degrees, urban centers have been explaining peaks of growth and period of decline affecting considerably the place of urbanization in time and area perspective.

The fundamental understanding of the urbanization as a necessary temporal- spatial event manifests considerable dynamics in area perspective. Such area comprehension comes in the light of the fact that the regency and the speed of the scale and pace behavior of the urbanization have tended to reveal widely ranged variations in spatio-temporal territorial confines at regional and sub-regional dimensions. The variation occurs simultaneously at macro, meso and micro scale hierarchy. A macro analysis though becomes facilitative in that attempt to comprehend the spatial unevenness at the first stance and in a more generalized way, it fails however, to reveal the in-depth variations. Meso and micro level analysis helps, therefore, extracts more convincing realities. To substantiate above comprehensions and attempt is made to minor the urban vision of Shahabad regions. The prevailing physico-economic and geography combine has tended to condition the trend and tempo of urbanization at all stages of time and space. Urban scale images are neither sudden nor static. It is essentially ever changing and evolving. It is tendency of urban centers to multiply and grow in population size in tempo- spatial dimension. It refers, in this sense, to growth processes which first generates and subsequently maintains or alter to scale proportions.

TABLE NO – 1 TOWNS OF SHAHABAD REGIONS, 2011 & 2001

Sl. No.	Name of the Towns	Population		District
		2011	2001	
1	Ara	261430	203380	Bhojpur
2	Sasaram	147408	131172	Rohtas
3	Dehri	137231	119057	Rohtas
4	Buxar	102861	83168	Buxar
5	Dumraon	53618	45806	Buxar
6	Bhabhua	50179	41775	Kaimur
7	Bikramganj	48465	38408	Rohtas
8	Piro	33785	25811	Bhojpur
9	Jagdishpur	32447	28085	Bhojpur
10	Nokha	27302	22354	Rohtas
11	Bhehea	26707	20741	Bhojpur
12	Nasiriganj	23819		Rohtas
13	Koath	18890	15815	Rohtas
14	Shahpur	17767	14469	Bhojpur
15	Koilwar	17725	19928	Bhojpur

Source : Census of India, 2001 & 2011

There are 15 towns in Shahabad regions of different sizes. Their name with population in hierarchical order is given in table no -1

LOCATION OF TOWNS IN SHAHABAD REGIONS

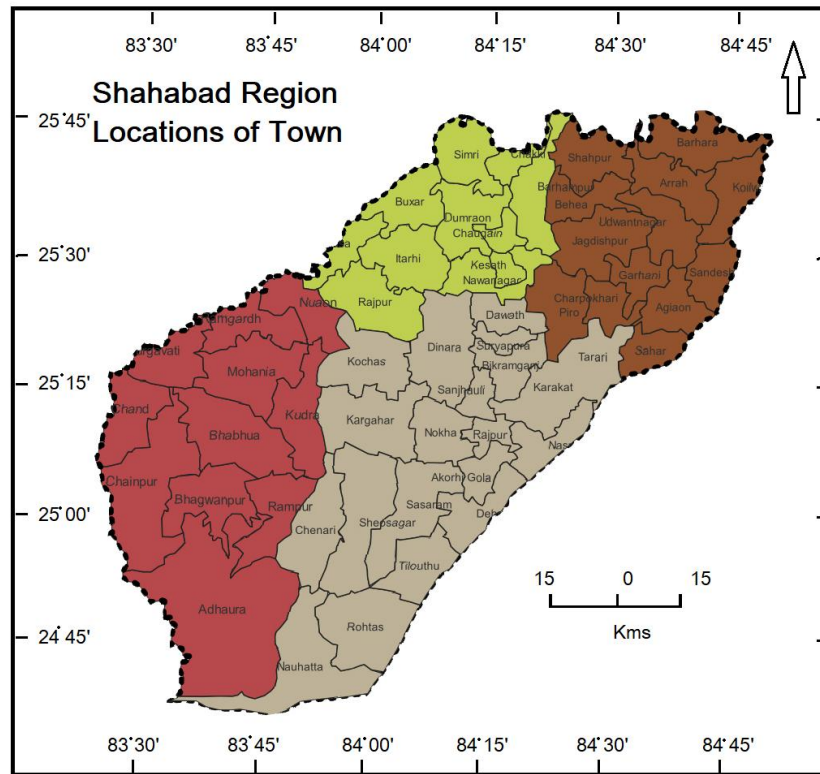
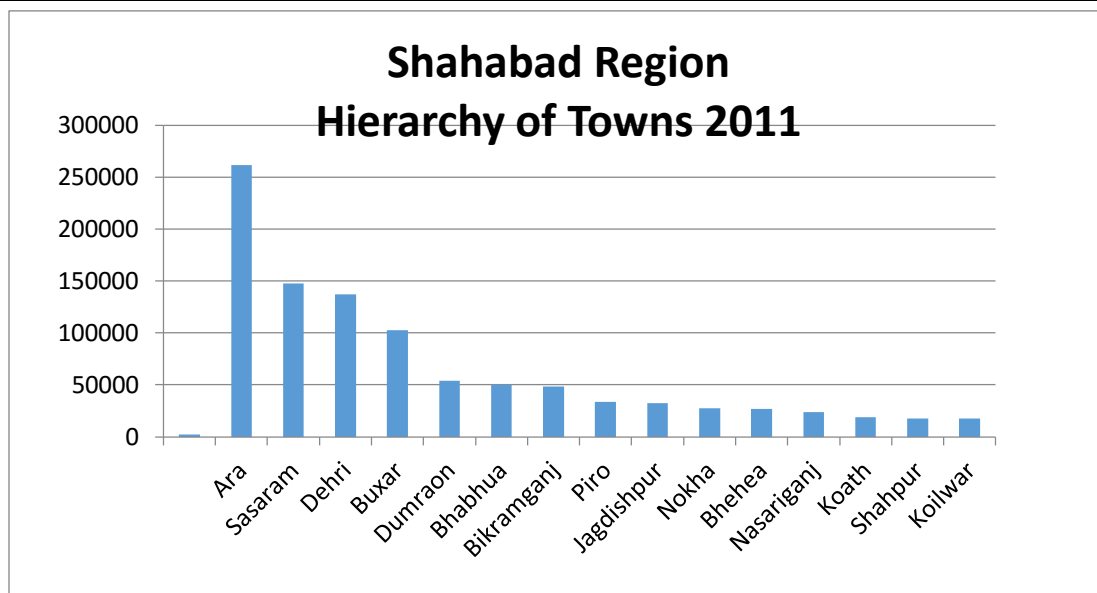


FIG 2

In above table no - 1 reveals that Koilwar is the smallest town in the study area, while Ara is the biggest town. The difference of population in the smallest and the biggest towns is about 14 times. All of the total 15 towns there are

three small, eight medium and four big towns. These 15 towns are spread in four district of Shahabad regions. Their respective location is shown in figure 2.



Regional distribution of towns is not uniform. District wise

urban centres are newly distributed. In table 2 district

wise distribution of towns and percentage of urban

population is shown.

TABLE NO – 2 DISTRICT WISE DISTRIBUTION OF TOWNS, 2011

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Towns	% Urban Population of District	% Total Population of Shahabad regions	% Urban Population of Shahabad regions
1	Bhojpur	6	14.28	30.24	39
2	Rohtas	6	13.62	32.81	40.32
3	Buxar	2	9.18	18.92	15.65
4	Kaimur	1	3.08	18.03	5.02
Shahabad regions		15	11.08		

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2011

In table no - 2 reveals that Bhojpur and Rohtas districts have six towns each followed by Buxar two and Kaimur only one. However the same rank is not maintained in the concentration of urban population of the districts. In Bhojpur district about 14.28% urban populations is concentrated in 6 centers, followed by Rohtas 13.62%, Buxar 9.18% and in Kaimur only 3.08%. But in the study area Rohtas district contributed 40.32% urban population followed by Bhojpur 39%, Buxar 15.65% and Kaimur only 5.02%.

On the basis of table 2 the degree or level of urbanization of different district in the study area can be measured. On this basis Bhojpur district can be treated as highly urbanized (14.28%) district followed by Rohtas (13.62%), Buxar (9.18%) and Kaimur only (3.06%). In Bhojpur and Rohtas district urbanization is higher than state average. This is the most common method to determine the degree of urbanization. There are other methods also for measuring the degree of urbanization that is rural population served by each town with population 20,000 and above, the larger the rural population served by a town, the lower the level of urbanization and vice-versa. In Shahabad regions 672,670 rural population is served by one town. However, it varies in different districts. Using the same formula of different district we find that in Bhojpur districts 593510 persons are served by one town, in Rohtas 15,5139 persons, Buxar 774,937 persons and Kaimur 1576,205 persons. On this basis it can be stated that in the study area ranking of different district with respect to percentage of total urban population and rural population served by one town is almost in the same hierarchy. It ranks first in respect of percentage of urban population of the study area, the lowest in respect of rural population served.

CONCLUSIONS

Urbanization is the measure of scaling the level of regional development of any territorial area. The Shahabad regions is not its exception. Shahabad regions occupied four district namely Ara, Rohtas, Buxar & Kaimur. Ara is the largest city of the study area, while Rohtas district has the maximum number of urban centers. Buxar & Kaimur have the least number of town and in the level of regional

development both are lesser developed district in comparison to Ara & Rohtas district. Therefore, the study of distribution of urban centers is very important and relevant in the present contest.

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