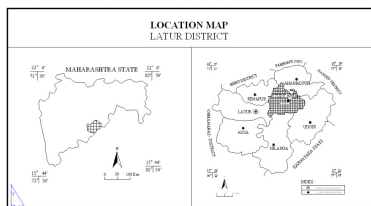


UMLAND OF CHAKUR : A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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The word "Umland" has a German origin. ("Um" = around). But according to Dr. Gilbert the word "Umland" is translation of the Swedish word "Omland" (Swedish "Om = around). Mr E.V. Cleef also tried to discuss the origin and meaning of the term umland and tried to distinguish between the Hinterland and Umland. Meaning is given as "das umliegende land". The word umland is defined rather broadly as "interior of a country i.e. far away land.



2. Study Region-Chakur Tahsil came into existence on 1992. It is one of the tahsil of Latur district. It is situated in the south-east of Maharashtra. It lies between 18° 30' North latitude and 76° 53' East longitude. The total geographical area of the study region is 683 Sq.kms. According to the 2001 census the study region has 157,135 population. There are 85 villages in the Chakur tahsil. The study region situated on Maharashtra plateau of the Deccan trap. Physiographically the study region divided into two regions i.e. mountainous and plain region. The mountainous region lies on the north and north east of the tahsil. Whereas plain region lies in the south. The climate of the tahsil is hot and dry with more humidity in the month of July. The temperature in the summer rises to 42° celsius. May is generally the hottest month of the year and December is the coldest month of the year, the mean minimum temperature is about 15°C, occasionally the minimum temperature may fall to about 7°C. The tahsil receives 880.8 mm rainfall in average.

3. Methodology-For the present research paper, data has been collected from both the sources i.e. primary and secondary. Primary data has obtained through interview and questionnaire techniques. The secondary source includes the published Govt. re-

ports, census handbook, socio-economic review and district statistical abstracts etc. The data thus collected, tabulated and arranged in a systematic manner.

4. Objectives-In the present paper an attempt is made to delimit the umland of Chakur. The main objectives of the study are as follows.

i) To study the physical and socio-economic setting of the region which affects on the service areas of centre. ii) To analyse the countryside goods and devices provided to Chakur. iii) To assess the services and commodities provided by Chakur to the surrounding villages and towns. iv) To delimit the spheres of urban influence of Chakur using different functions. v) To find out the integrated umland and gradient of the umland of Chakur.

5. Countryside Interrelating Factors-Any city town or village is not completely autonomous or self sufficient in all respect. The daily requirements of the town or city are to be interacted from the local near by villages or towns. Therefore surrounding villages make a mark on the city. The villages from the surrounding rural area supply vegetables, milk, food grain, various agricultural products, workers for industries and construction of buildings to the town city.

a) Sugarcane supply zone-The study region has the favourable conditions for the cultivation of sugarcane, therefore, the farmers prefer to cultivate this crop. The farmers of the countryside provide sugarcane to 'Jai Jawan Jai Kissan Cooperative Sugar Factory' which was established in the year 1984 at Nalegaon. Though sugarcane is cultivated all over the tahsil but the principal area of cultivation is found mainly in the zone of irrigation.

b) Vegetable supply zone-The shape of this zone appears like ellipse Chakur, Latur Road, Kadmul, Mohnal, Mandurki, Khurdali, Gharni, Wadwal, Rachannawadi, etc. Several varieties of vegetables are grown in the villages around Chakur. Thus the extent of this zone is likely to expand in the future towards Latur. As the sale of vegetable is regular at the market of chakur. The farmers sell the vegetables to the retailers who then sell to the customers.

c) Food grain supply zone-Due to increase in population of Chakur and its relations with other im-

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portant tahsils of within and outside of district, it commands a better position in the trade of oilseeds are largely grown in Latur district. Jawar, wheat and pulses are other major commodities of this zone. This food - grain supply zone occupied an area nearly 200 sq. km. The shape of food grain supply zone is like as circular.

I) Hybrid Jowar-The total area under the hybrid jowar was 21500 hectares in the year 2006 -2007. Low rainfall, hot climate and moderate to high fertility of soils are the favorable factors for the growth of this crop in Chakur tahsil, It is grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. The cultivation of hybrid Jowar is introduced in the area since. 1973, and is popular amongst the cultivators, as it gives higher yields.

II) Wheat-Though wheat is grown all over the tahsil, it yields in the deep black ordinary soil. It is cultivated mainly in the areas where irrigation facilities are available in rabi season. The total land under wheat cultivation was 6800 hectares in the year 2006 in Chakur tahsil. Wheat is supplied to other tahsils of Latur district.

III) Pulses-The important pulses grown in the Chakur tahsil include, Tur, Gram, Blackgram, Mung (green-gram). Except Tur which is cultivated as a mixedcrop mostly. Pulses are grown all over the study region. The land under the cultivation of pulses was of 12500 hectares in 2006.

d) Oil seeds-Oil seeds also occupy a major position in the food crop in the study region. Soyabean, groundnut, sunflower, sesame etc. are main oil seeds provided to Chakur market. Most of the land of study region is under the cultivation of soyabean. One third of study region is under the cultivation of all types of oil seeds. Due to the establishment of Tina oil factory at Latur, the demand for soyabean of Chakur is increased more. The purchased oil seeds generally supplied to Latur market.

e) Milk Supply Zone-The shape of the milk supply zone of Chakur is irregular. It is extended in the north-west and occupied the southern part of Hali (kh). with regard to the shape of the milk supply zone it appears like a circle. It covers nearly 300 sq. km. area which amounts to 30 % area of the tahsil. The physiography seems to have played a vital role in deciding the milk zone of study region. The western part ranging from 560m to 600 m high from the sea level occupied by the Balaghat ranges provide milk to Chakur. Kolhapuri handcars, percolation tanks, and grasslands of this region, promote the cattle rearing activity in this part.

6. Central Interrelating Factors-Following are the important routes that emanate from Chakur viz I)Chakur to Nagpur II) Chakur to Mumbai III) Chakur to Osmanabad -Sholapur. Besides these state routes,

there are several district and village routes that state routes, there are several district and village routes that start from Chakur. Thus Chakur has become a nodal centre in the district it is the bus transport system that plays a vital role in bringing the surrounding region into closer contacts with Chakur.

a)Railway facility user zone-Latur Road is the nearest railway station that is 3 km. away from Chakur. It is a broad-gauge line which connects Latur Road to Hyderabad- Vikarabad-Bidar and Parli Vaijinath. After installation of four largest thermal power stations at Parli Vaijinath the importance of this route increased. This railway route is used for the transportation of coal. The southern central railway earns crores of rupees by coal transportation via Vikarabad- Latur Road-Parli Vaijinath. Now a days the southern centerl railway providing various facilities to the public. Instead of one passenger train at present there are two express trains which are extended upto Hydrabad to Manmad via Latur Road. On this railway line the public is enjoying journey by three express trains viz Kakinada - Vijaywada -Hyderabad- Manmad, Nanded – Benglor and Osmanabad -Hyderabad Another two passenger trains run on this route via Latur Road from Hyderabad to Aurangabad. Railway is main service of Chakur for movement of people in other states.

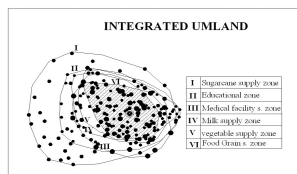
b) Medical facility supply zone-The medical facilities with well equipped and modern health centers can not be maintained at the level of villages. Therefore, the residents of villages depend on the nearby urban centers which have such modern hospitals. In this way urban centre influences her neighboring villages. Data collected in the last week of September 2008, reveals that people from 65 villages out of 85 used medical services of Chakur. In this research data is collated from govt. hospital, and private hospital.

c) Educational zone-Education is one of the prime functions of every urban entity. The urban centre generally provides educational facilities to the people for higher education. There are five degree colleges and seven secondary schools and ten primary schools in Chakur. Recently as the higher educational facilities have been provided at Chakur specially in computer education.

d)Market service zone-In this research rural people coming in one week in selected shop of Chakur (2008) for purchasing the local traditional cloth and metal utensils are considered. It was observed that about 227 persons visited from 61 villages for marketing. The data reveals that the customers are coming from near by villages. The above 227 persons are from Latur Road (10), Wadwal (15), Tirthwadi (10), Khurdali (6) etc. places. The shape of market umland of Chakur is irregular. It covers entire Chakur tahsil.

e) Tourist Centre-One of the most important thing about chakur is Lord Shivalaya Temple; besides that VRINDAVAN AMUSEMENT and WATER PARK are attraction places for the tourists. It is developed at useless land by the trustee of the temple. Apart from the VRINDAVAN PARK we would find various types of Mango tress Emblic Nuts (Amla) and other tress in 100 acres developed land, moreover the Mango fruits (Keshar Mango) got the national level prize. The facilities are available at this place havely; water park, Amusement park, Accommodation, Restaurants, and entertainment facilities. The tourists are generally from marathawada, boundary area of Karnataka, Andrapradesh and other part of the Maharashtra. Three hundred tourists usually visit at Virmdvan park the glorious place. As par the part of holidays its crowded among the tourists.

7. Integrated Umland-A town or a city is not an isolated entity. It is inextricable bound up with its surrounding area to operate as a unified functional region. The city is influenced by its surrounding area and in turn it affects the surrounding area. The size of town or city depend on the nature and function of the area surrounding it while the economy of the city in turn, determines the activities of the surrounding areas. The manifestation of this city region relationship is found to be implicit in the hexagonal pattern of service areas. This relationship between the city and its surrounding area has been found in the ear lies. Improved transport



and has been found in the earliest cities to further extend their service in to the surrounding rural areas but also permitted the working population of the city to live far beyond the city limits and travel to work daily. Thus, city and countryside are economically interdependent and each city wields some influence upon the area surrounding it. But the influence diminished outward from the city, i.e. form the core of the area.

8. Conclusion-In the present study an attempt has been made to delimit the Umland of Chakur. In view of this objective different countryside and central functions have been analysed in a systematic way. Following findings are identified based on preceding analysis. (1) The size, extent and the shape of Umland of Chakur is influenced by different physical aspects. Because local relief, climate and resources such

as soil water etc. have affected the location and developments of economic activities of the region. (2) Sugarcane supply zone of Chakur is relatively large and roughly circular in shape. It includes entire Chakur tahsil and neighboring part of Ahmedpur and Shirur Anantpal. There is no any sugar industry in the sugarcane cultivating part except Jai Jawan Jaikissan cooperative sugar factory therefore, neighboring countryside farmers are supplying sugarcane to this agro-based industry i.e. Jai Jawan co. sugar factory. Sugarcane is supplies more from irrigated areas. (3) The shape of vegetable supply zone is circular. Vegetables are supplied more from neighboring villages. (4) The shape of food grain supply zone is like as circle. All food grain producing villages are supplying. (5) Milk supply zone is relatively small and includes villages from chakur tahsils. It is supplied more from hilly areas where irrigation facilities are not available and land is infertile (6) S. T. Bus and railway are two main modes of transportation from chakur to countryside However, private trucks, tempo, rickshaws are also used for transportation from chakur to surrounding villages. It is observed that daily traveling population is increased considerably in last two decades whereas the bus service frequency remained as it was before twenty year back therefore, private transportation such as trucks, tempo, rickshaws and luxury bus have been encouraged and developed considerably. (7) The study of medical facility supply zone reveals that most of people come to Chakur for medical service from all surrounding areas. (8) Education umland of Chakur medium which covers 80% settlements of Chakur Tahasils. Chakur is a center of graduate education in arts, science and commerce. It is also a centre of computer education. B.Ed and D.Ed. education facilities are also available at Chakur. (9) Chakur is a significant market for cloth, utensils and for many industrial goods. It provides variety of commodities to the people of Chakur. (10) All services user zone i.e. integrated / composite umland of chakur includes about 65 villages of the study region. It includes most part of Chakur tahsil. (11) The study of umland of Chakur reveals that the intensity of functions decreases toward the periphery of umland. Particularly towards northeast side of Chakur.

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