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URBANIZATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization means the growth of the number and size of the towns and the spreading of quality of life in towns (Enyedi, 1996). Naturally the growth and development is different in several parts of the world. On the other hand the urbanization is not only effect to towns. It has also an effect on rural region. Several attendant phenomenons belong to the urbanization (economic development, rural development, infrastructural development etc.). Primary target is to demonstrate the connection between *urbanization* and *rural development*.

INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is close connection with *regional development*. Regional development includes connection and development of the whole country, different regions of the country and each settlement from the natural resources, population, production, and infrastructural condition points of view. In this concept regional partnership is also crucial (Lackó, 1988). According to other authors the regional development shows other important criteria. According to Faragó (1992) every region is special; therefore regional development has no global interpretation and there is no down-to-earth universal regional development direction. Consequently we can only speak about alternative trends.

Development and *growth* are not the same. Development means changing with values while growth shows changing of the rates (Nemes Nagy, 1988). Important fact, that growth is not necessary accompanied with development. Additionally there are a lot of values in development, which are influenced by recent economical, political, ideologi-

cal relations. For example in case of developing countries we can often experience fast economical growth (new airport-building project, shopping centre investment etc.) while the important part of the society is out of these development. This is the growth without development.

Sustainable development is one type of the development. As a general rule the basis of the sustainable development, that the satisfaction of the recent economical and social needs do not restrict satisfaction of future needs. This is a fundamental principle. It is known that growth-orientated economical and social processes restrict the emergence of this principle. On several points it is incompatible with sustainable development. Urbanization is one part of this problem. Nowadays most of the population (6.2 million people) lives in towns (3.2 million people) (Enyedi, 2006). Proportion of the population of rural-urban areas is changed. Consequently, this situation created several social, environmental and economical conflicts. Urbanization direction will not be maintained neither in developed nor in developing countries.

Urbanization is a special periodical development. Periods are not divided from each other distinctly. Transitions and overlaps are also natural during this process. Enyedi (1988) divided this process into the following periods:

- Urban-explosion
- Relative deconcentration
- Deurbanization
- Urbanization of informatics

MATERIAL AND METHOD

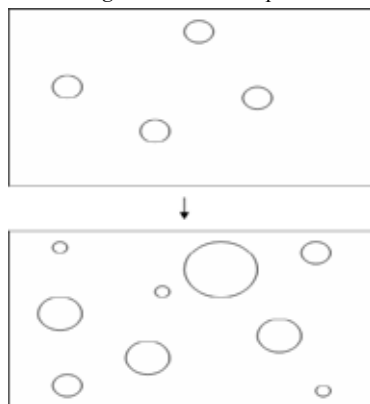
Many studies in connection with regional development, rural areas and urbanization have been surveyed. Systemization of this knowledge have been crucial. Phrasing of the rural regional position in urbanization was the purpose. On the base of this I conceptualize the situation of the rural region in connection with urbanization.

RESULT

Urbanization and regional development

Labor force is significantly concentrated with spatial expansion of industrial production and the development of industry. This is the specialty of *urban-explosion*. Population of towns and non-civic settlements are increasing. This urbanization period lasted for a long time in the most developed industrial countries. The phenomenon began in the 17th century and lasted for centuries. This situation was accompanied with technical improvement. The outcome of this development was that lots of agricultural laborer became hard workers. Some people removed from rural region to towns, or to its suburb. Therefore the demographical situation of the rural areas was changed (Figure 1.).

Figure 1.: Urban-explosion



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In the urban-explosion period in Chicago between the years 1875-1900 demonstrate the explosion situation. Chicago was the quickest-growing town at that time. (Growing rate was 6% per year). During that time the population was increased by 1.3 million people there. The population of Lagos increased with some 10 million people between the years 1975-2000 one hundred years after the population. In this case the growing rate was 5,8% per year (Enyedi, 2006).

There is not the same *urban-explosion* situation can be experienced in developed and developing countries. The funds of the urban-explosion are close connection with *industrial development* in developed countries. In this countries people who removed from rural areas to towns has been changed their livelihood and their demographical, behavioral habitude. On the contrary this situation the *urban-explosion* has been started later in the developing countries than in the developed ones. Urban-explosion is close connection with *over-population of rural areas* in developing countries. Industrial development here is very slow: the towns cannot support people who removed from rural areas to towns. It result from this the unemployment rate increase, and the bigger part of the urban society has no chance to disentangle from poverty. In these countries people who removed from rural areas to towns do not change their demographical and behavioral habitude (Enyedi, 2006).

Chart 1.: Urban-explosion situation in developed and developing countries

<i>Urban-explosion</i>	Developed countries	Developing countries
Beginning	early-capitalism (18 th – 19 th century)	mainly 20 th century
population increasing	Slow	Quick
base of the process	Industrial development of towns	Over-population of rural areas
Advantage from the urban life-style	considerable: livelihood, all kind of service	inconsiderable: unemployment, poverty

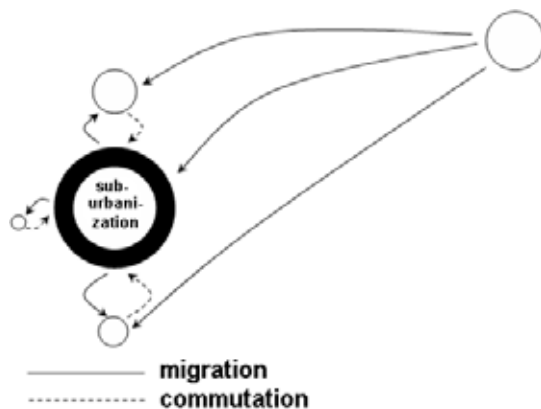
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Considering either in the developed or in the developing countries the urban-explosion made the migration of rural people. As a result of industrial development of towns and over-population of rural areas, rural people change their residence (Chart 1.). The young and ambitious part of the rural society moved to towns. The consequence is loss of value of rural society.

During the period of *relative deconcentration* the increasing of the urban population slow down. One hand *deconcentration* means that rural population move not only to the towns, but urban settlements. On the other hand *deconcentration* means that one part of the urban population moves out from towns to suburb or to urban settlements. The deconcentration is a *relative* process because only the populations of the administratively circumscribed towns increase, but the suburb and urban settlements, so functional connection of the town is clearly gains. In this period the economical and social function of villages have been changing. There is lots of livelihood alternatives can be found in rural areas: livelihood in industry, livelihood in tourism etc. (Figure 2.)

Originally the settlements are special units of workplace and inhabitation. In the *relative deconcentration period* the function of workplace and dwelling has changed in case of several settlements. In case of those villages that lie nearby the towns more important dwelling-function and workplace-function can be experienced. Workplace can be found mostly in towns. Workplace and home divides.

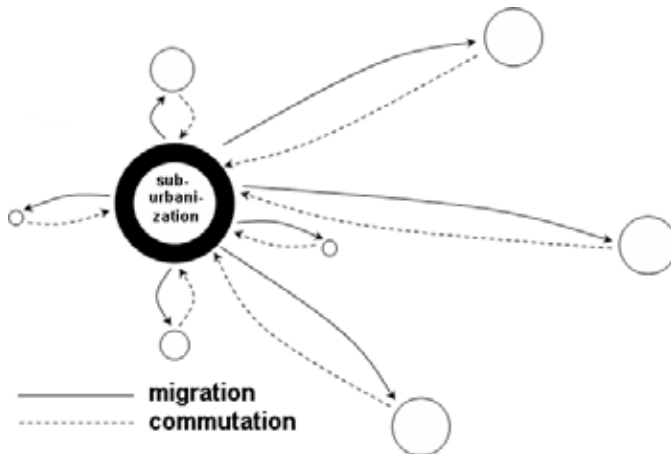
Figure 2.: Relative deconcentration



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Deurbanization means that rural areas become centre of regional development. Close and extended relationship came off between town and its countryside. In the rural areas work and leisure opportunities reevaluates. In this period the perspective of rural settlements is essentially determined by geographical and traffic givens (Figure 3.).

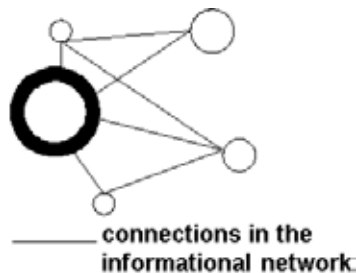
Figure 3.: Dezurbanization



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In *urbanization of informatics* period the high-tech informatics is generally spreading. One of the most important parts of this process is the *deconcentration*. Several new rural centres start developing. Further feature is that in this period the position of each settlement or area is not determined absolutely by geographical and vehicular status. The basis of this development is the relationship between settlements, areas and informational network. As a result of this we can experience a special *informational band*. Mechanism of the informational band depends on the social, economical, political technical development of certain area. The *informational band* means not only using new informational channels but it means active participation in the creation of the informational network (Figure 4.).

Figure 4.: Urbanization of informatics



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Urbanization and Sustainable Development

Several signs show that some periods of urbanization process could not be part of sustainable development. As a result of *urban-explosion* in big cities some social, economical, environmental problems (slums, noise, overcrowding) can be experienced. This is not only the problem of developed countries but of developing countries, too. The managing of this problem is one of the most important challenges of mankind.

Not only in towns can be found unsustainable phenomena. During the process of the urbanization the rural areas lose their population. Actually the migration is selective: mainly the ambitious, young population leaves their home. Result of this process is a misshapen rural population and an unviable economy.

Neither big cities nor rural areas will not be capable to solve their urbanizational problems alone. In my opinion the success of the sustainable development in urbanizational process depends on the *relationship* between towns and their rural territory (within villages). The most important connection is communication by several informational tools along with direct physical contact. This is an essential condition of the regional co-operation. Theoretically, the informational network is able to eliminate the geographical, vehicular disadvantage of rural areas. In this situation the development of towns and rural areas could become well balanced: regional development will be sustainable. This positive theory works only in local dimension. We cannot experience this situation in global dimension. The chance that the urbanization connects to sustainable development depends on universal and local factors. It is a fact that there are lots of general features in the urbanization which are experienced everywhere; but the reason for this that the urbanization has got some area specific markers in a certain region. One of these factors is the economical and social structure of Socialism. As a result of this structure, urbanization process in the decades of state socialism was a bit different from western trends.

Generally the parallelism with the western trends industrialized the towns and the other hand declined the agricultural countryside. The agricultural employment has been fallen and the contribution to the gross national product of the agricultural sector has been measurably decreased. It was unfavourable for rural areas. Historical development had been disrupted by the centralized organization of the state socialism that originally based on town-supported principles. The politics came up with negative *discrimination* of the countryside authorized by heavy industrial structure policy and through the centralized state organization instead of maintain a healthy town-countryside relationship. In these decades migration of inland from the rural areas to towns strengthened.

In the case of post-socialist countries the regime change was given a new situation in urbanization processes. Political support from the winner of former industry-friendly policy has been denied and sources were run out. Unfavourable social and economic processes began both in the towns and in the rural areas. Crisis extended fast and it was really deep. Initially, as every regional process, the urbanization processes were also happened pretty *spontaneously*. Rural areas were suffered the most serious consequences. The managing of this problem is one of the most important challenges of regional development.

CONCLUSION

Urbanization is closely connected to regional development. There is not only one viable (universal) regional development trend. Sustainable development is one of the most important types of them. Lots of signs show that certain parts of urbanization process could not be part of sustainable development. Success of sustainable development in urbanization process depends on the *relationship* between towns and their rural territory (within villages). Rural areas will be revalued.

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