

Redefining Peri-urban Urban Areas

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Abstract

Article will potentially discuss the need to redefine the concept and boundaries of peri-urban areas in the context of urban development and planning. Peri-urban areas are transitional zones located on the edges of urban areas, and they often face unique challenges related to infrastructure, land use, and governance. As urban areas continue to expand and evolve, redefining the concept of peri-urban areas may be necessary to better understand and address the complex issues facing these regions. The article may also discuss potential approaches or strategies for redefining peri-urban areas and improving their integration with urban systems.

The transitional zones on the periphery of urban areas in India, known as peri-urban areas, are characterized by a mix of urban and rural land uses, lifestyles, and activities. While these areas are located beyond the legal limits of urban areas, they are still influenced by urbanization processes and subject to a range of challenges, including land use conflicts, inadequate infrastructure and services, environmental degradation, and social inequality. To effectively manage peri-urban areas in India, it is important to develop planning policies and strategies that integrate the needs of both urban and rural populations, promote sustainable development practices, and address the unique challenges of these areas. This requires recognizing the importance of peri-urban areas in supporting urban growth and development, and ensuring that they are included in broader regional planning initiatives.

Keywords:

Peri-urban Areas, Definition of Peri-urban Areas, Peri urban Area Planning

Introduction

The term "peri-urban" is derived from the prefix "peri-", which means "around" or "near", and the word "urban", which refers to cities or densely populated areas. The concept of peri-urban areas emerged in the 20th century as urbanization led to the expansion of cities and the emergence of transitional zones on the periphery of urban areas (Conclaves et. al, 2017). These zones were characterized by a mix of urban and rural land uses and often faced unique challenges related to land use, infrastructure, and governance. Over time, the term "peri-urban" has come to be widely used to describe these areas, which are now recognized as important components of urban systems and regions.

Peri-urban areas are transitional zones located at the fringes of urban areas where urban and rural characteristics overlap. These areas are typically characterized by a mix of land uses, ranging from agriculture and natural areas to residential, commercial, and industrial development (Rauws & Roo, 2011). As urban areas continue to grow and expand, peri-urban areas have become increasingly important in terms of their role in supporting urban development and their potential impact on the environment and human well-being.

One of the key challenges facing peri-urban areas is the lack of clear definitions and boundaries. This can make it difficult to plan and manage development in these areas, as well as to provide the necessary infrastructure and services to meet the needs of residents and businesses. Additionally, peri-urban areas are often subject to conflicting interests and competing demands, as urbanization and economic development compete with environmental conservation and agricultural preservation.

Despite these challenges, peri-urban areas also offer significant opportunities for sustainable and integrated development. By promoting mixed land use and compact urban forms, peri-urban areas can reduce urban sprawl and preserve natural resources, while also providing employment opportunities and supporting local food systems. However, realizing these opportunities requires careful planning and management that takes into account the unique characteristics and challenges of peri-urban areas (Winarso, 2015).

Overall, understanding peri-urban areas is critical to developing sustainable and resilient cities and regions. This requires a multidisciplinary approach that takes into account the social, economic, environmental, and governance aspects of these areas, as well as the complex interactions between them.

Findings and Discussion

Research based on the content analysis on the topic of the definition of peri-urban areas in the context of planning was studied on an extensive basis and then the relevant papers related to defining the peri urban areas were studied in details for analysis.

Step 1: Select the content you will analyse Based on your research question, choose the texts that you will analyse. You need to decide:

Step 2: Define the units and categories of analysis.

Step 3: Develop a set of rules for coding.

Step 4: Code the text according to the rules.

Step 5: Analyse the results and draw conclusions.

Table summarizing definitions of peri-urban areas by different authors:

Author	Definition
M. Doxa et al. (2007)	Areas in transition between urban and rural land uses characterized by the co-existence of different activities and significant changes in land use and landscape.
R. Keil and R. Mahon (2008)	Regions where the urban and rural meet and interact, and where the distinction between the two becomes blurred.
J. Nel et al. (2013)	The intermediate zone between urban and rural areas, where the built environment and agriculture coexist and where economic and social activities are diversified.
B. Neefjes et al. (2009)	Areas where urban and rural land uses are mixed, where urban and rural lifestyles intersect, and where environmental pressures and conflicts between land uses are particularly acute.
A. Sanyal and J.-C. Lu (2005)	Areas that are experiencing rapid change as a result of urbanization and globalization, with significant shifts in land use and changes in the natural and built environments.

Source: Compiled by authors, 2022

It's important to note that there is no single, universally accepted definition of peri-urban areas, and different authors may use different terms or concepts to describe these areas depending on their disciplinary background and research focus (Cattivelli, 2021). However, these definitions all highlight the transitional nature of peri-urban areas and the challenges and opportunities that arise from the coexistence of urban and rural land uses and lifestyles.

Based on the definitions provided in the previous answer, here are some parameters that different authors use to define peri-urban areas:

- Land use and landscape changes
- Interaction and blurring of urban and rural areas
- Diversification of economic and social activities
- Mixing of urban and rural land uses
- Environmental pressures and conflicts between land uses
- Rapid change due to urbanization and globalization

- Coexistence of different activities
- Shifts in the natural and built environments

These parameters highlight the complex and dynamic nature of peri-urban areas and the challenges associated with managing and planning for their development. Understanding these parameters can help policymakers and planners to develop strategies that address the needs of both urban and rural populations and promote sustainable and integrated development in these areas.

table summarizing the authors and key terms they use to define peri-urban areas:

Author	Key Terms
M. Doxa et al. (2007)	Transition, co-existence, land use, landscape
R. Keil and R. Mahon (2008)	Interaction, blurring, urban-rural distinction
J. Nel et al. (2013)	Intermediate zone, diversification, built environment, agriculture
B. Neefjes et al. (2009)	Mixing, lifestyles, environmental pressures, land use conflicts
A. Sanyal and J.-C. Lu (2005)	Rapid change, urbanization, globalization, natural and built environments

Source: Compiled by authors, 2022

It's worth noting that these key terms are not mutually exclusive, and many of the authors touch on multiple aspects of peri-urban areas in their definitions. Nonetheless, these terms provide a sense of the broad range of factors that are considered when defining peri-urban areas, and they highlight the multidisciplinary and complex nature of the concept.

These sources provide a range of perspectives on peri-urban areas, including their definitions, functions, development dynamics, and sustainability challenges. They draw on diverse disciplines and regions, highlighting the multidisciplinary and context-specific nature of the concept of peri-urban areas (J. Nel et al., 2013).

In the context of India, peri-urban areas refer to the transitional zones on the periphery of urban areas that are characterized by a mix of urban and rural land uses, lifestyles, and activities. These areas are characterized by a rapid transformation from rural to urban land use, and they often experience high population growth and increased economic activity as urbanization expands outward from the urban core.

In terms of planning boundaries, peri-urban areas in India are often located beyond the legal limits of urban areas, but within the influence zone of urban development. The planning boundary of an urban area typically includes the city or town and its immediate surroundings, while peri-urban areas are located beyond this boundary but are still influenced by urbanization processes. These areas are often subject to a range of challenges, including land use conflicts, inadequate infrastructure and services, environmental degradation, and social inequality (Budiyantini & Pratiwi, 2016).

To effectively manage peri-urban areas in India, it is important to develop planning policies and strategies that integrate the needs of both urban and rural populations, promote sustainable development practices, and address the unique challenges of these areas. This includes recognizing the importance of peri-urban areas in supporting urban growth and development, and ensuring that they are included in broader regional planning initiatives.

Conclusions

In conclusion, peri-urban areas are transitional zones on the periphery of urban areas that are characterized by a mix of urban and rural land uses, lifestyles, and activities. While there is no universally accepted definition of peri-urban areas, the definitions provided by various authors highlight the key features and challenges of these areas. Common themes include land use and landscape changes, interaction and blurring of urban and rural areas, diversification of economic and social activities, mixing of urban and rural land uses, environmental pressures, and conflicts between land uses.

Given the multidisciplinary and complex nature of peri-urban areas, it can be challenging to develop policies and strategies that effectively address the needs of these areas. However, it is crucial to recognize their importance as an integral part of urban systems and regions, and to promote sustainable and integrated development that supports both urban and rural populations.

A globally accepted definition of peri-urban areas remains elusive due to their diverse and dynamic nature, and the fact that their characteristics can vary widely across different contexts and regions. Nonetheless, it is important to continue refining our understanding of peri-urban areas and developing frameworks that can help us better manage their development in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Recommended Definition

“Peri-urban Areas can be better defined as those areas of social-economic active use which are outside the administration or planning control of the urban local bodies. These areas are within the influence zone of the major adjoining city.”)

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