Rural and Urban Sociology - Web course
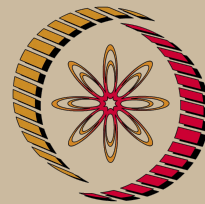
COURSE OUTLINE

Urban existence is the fate of an ever-increasing population in the modern world. At the beginning of the 21st century, 3 billion people live in urban areas around the world and the number is expected to grow to 5 billion by 2030.

It is also understood that the metropolitan regions of the developing countries will be witnessing this growth. The rise of the modern city in the post-Industrial Revolution period has raised new intellectual queries and the task of urban sociology is to address and answer those questions.

The course will enable the student to appreciate urban development from a sociological perspective.

COURSE DETAIL

Module	Topics and Content	No. of lectures
1.	**Introduction:** • **From rural to urban: debates around the concepts of gemeinschaft and gesellschaft.** In the introductory chapter some of the key sociological issues/concepts that are seminal to urban sociology will be discussed. The rise of the modern city was intrinsic to the 'problem of order' precipitated by the Industrial Revolution and revolutionary democracy in Western Europe. The chapter will look at these historical events and analyze concepts such as *gemeinschaft* and *gesellschaft* that are crucial for understanding the debates in urban sociology.	4
2.	**Origin of city in history:** • **The Ancient City**. • **The Medieval City**. • **The Modern Industrial city.** In this chapter the city in history will be traced through the works of urbanists and sociologists such as Lewis Mumford, Gordon V. Childe, Max Weber, Charles H. Cooley.	6
3.	**Theories of urban sociology:** • **Classical:** The classical sociological theorists grappled with the arrival of modern urbanism.They attempted to understand the very nature of the new industrial society that was transforming the European cities.	10

NPTEL

http://nptel.iitm.ac.in

Humanities and Social Sciences

Additional Reading:

Journal articles and book chapters:

1. Konvitz, Josef, Rose and Tarr, Joel (1990). "Technology and the City" *Technology and Culture* Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 284-294.

2. Mitter, Partha (1986). "The Early British Port Cities of India: Their Planning and Architecture Circa" *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* Vol. 45, No. 2, pp. 95-114.

3. Mumford, Lewis. (1968). *City in History* (Chapter 1). San Diego: Mariner Books.

4. Ray, C. N. (2008). Changing Pattern of Traditional neighbourhood in Walled City of Ahemdabad; Case of Vad Vali Pol and Navi Pol *CEPT University Ahemdabad.*

5. Schatzberg, Eric. (2001). Culture and Technology in the City: Opposition to Mechanized Street Transportation in Late-Nineteenth-Century America. In *Technologies of Power* edited by Michael Thad Allen and Gabrielle Hecht. Cambridge Mass.: The MIT Press.

6. Seligman, Edwin R. A. and Johnson (1962) *City* jn Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences.

Hyperlinks:

http://www.sarai.net/about-us/csds

	Contemporary: The contemporary sociological theories look at cities from the point of view of production, distribution and consumption of space. These theoretical approaches have been influenced largely by the ecological, cultural and political-economic perspectives.	

4.	**Technology and urban life:**	5
	• It has been observed by historians that technological and urban developments are closely related processes.	
	• The use and impact of technology varies between urban and rural areas.	
	• This chapter will discuss, through case-studies, how technology moulds urban landscape as urban social life-as centres of education, as sources for capital and political power-impacts on technology.	

5.	**Poetics and politics of urban spaces:**	5
	• Sociologists have looked at different dimensions of urban spaces such as neighbourhood, ghetto, suburbs and the edge city.	
	• This chapter will explore, drawing on cross-cultural case-studies, how urban spaces are the products of a number of social processes.	

6.	**Urban planning and design**:	6
	• City planning reflects the social structures and processes in any society.	
	• Modern urban planning had its origins in the reaction to the rapid and disorderly growth that characterized the latter part of the 19th century.	
	• This chapter will sensitize the student to appraise urban planning from a sociological perspective.	
	• The chapter will look at pre-imperial, colonial and post-independence Indian cities and show how city planning and larger social processes reinforce one another.	

7.	**Rural, urban, 'rururban' and suburban: the future of urban sociology:**	4
	• In India the dichotomy between rural and urban has often been questioned by sociologists.	
	• It has been pointed out that the neologism 'rururban' captures the dynamics of Indian urbanism.	
	• This chapter will address such conceptual questions and review contemporary sociological studies on urbanization in India.	
	• It will also comment on possible areas of further research.	

Coordinators:

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Total	**40**	

References:

1. Rao, M. S. A., ed. (1974) *Urban Sociology in India: Reader and Source Book.* New Delhi: Orient Longman.

2. Gottdiener, Mark and Ray Hutchison (2006) *The New Urban Sociology.* Boulder: West View Press.

3. Gottdiener, Mark and Leslie Budd (2005) *Key Concepts in Urban Studies*. London: Sage Publications.

4. Lin Jan and Mele Christopher, ed. (2005) *The Urban Sociology Reader.* London: Routledge.