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“Roll Of Satellite Towns in The Planned Urban Development of Alwar”

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ABSTRACT:

In this paper, the main goal is to understand the roll of satellite towns to eradicate the regional disparity and to curve the various urbanization related problems. Development of the satellite towns is the need of the day in Alwar because they are situated around or near Alwar city. They can be quite helpful in bringing about a planned economic growth of Rajasthan at large. The notable fact remains that neighboring towns lack adequate infrastructure and planned development, and that they require a serious concern. If a proper care is taken of these nearby-situated satellite towns, Alwar district will automatically develop. Satellite town is the utmost demand of urbanizing situation which is attracting the rural people towards cities for the sake of modernity, family settlement, employment, and education.

Key Words: *Development, Satellite Towns, Infrastructure, Urbanization, Settlement.*

INTRODUCTION

Alwar, a fast developing district characterized by urban sprawl and the ‘Singhdwar of Rajasthan’, falls in north-eastern Rajasthan. Expanding from 27°04” north to 28°04” northern latitude and 76°07” to 77°13” east longitude, it resembles a ‘standing rectangle’ with an extension of 137 km and 110 km in north- south and east-west respectively. The height of Alwar from the sea level is 268 meter and occupies 8380 sq. km., that is, 2.4% geographical area of Rajasthan. Distinct in its demographic features, as census of 2011 reports, it has the 5.3% population of Rajasthan, that is, 3,67,199. Alwar is encompassed in NCR. Its specific features, flora and fauna have since long attracted the global folks, and tourists enjoy its forts, watery places, heritage buildings like havelis and forts and nature reserves that have much to draw magnetically the people towards them.

Besides Ruparail River, there are several special attractions in Alwar district which have an in exhaustive stock of beautiful sights and scenes. It is a perfect destination for the lovers of nature, history, culture, scientists and for the people with a high aesthetic sense.

The demographic features are so notable. According to census 2011, the Alwar city and Alwar district population are respectively 341,422 and 1,015,310. It reveals its high density level. The district accommodates manfolks of various faiths and creeds.

Obviously, there can be seen ‘unity in diversity’ and a ‘mini-India’ in the district with the people having different creeds, customs and traditions. The following table is a sufficient evidence to prove that the population is increasing constantly. The Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains are respectively 90.7%, 4.3%, 2.6%, 2.1% in the district. The remaining 1.3% population of the district belongs to other religions including Christians. Haryana and UP form the interstate boundary of the Alwar district. Its eastern and southern part enjoins Bharatpur, while Jaipur and Dausa districts are towards the south.

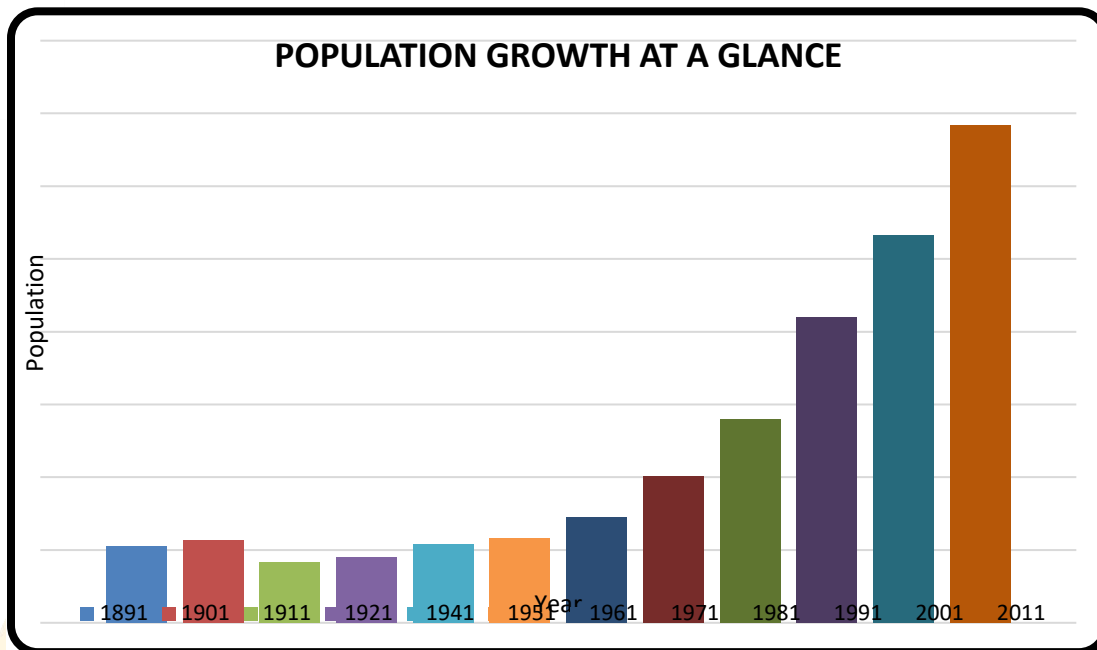


Fig. : Population Growth At a Glance
Source- Indian Historical Census

The Alwar district is known for its semi-arid climate and moderate rainfall. The beautiful tall hills surround the south-western and western parts and the general slope in eastern part and north east make the entire district an incredibly beautiful landscape in the rainy season.

DEFINITIONS OF SATELLITE TOWN

Satellite town may be said to be urban areas which surround bigger areas of metropolis, and which are independent of them. Without a matured sensibility, the satellite town concept is beyond grasping. As a satellite is man-made and launched into the orbit, a satellite town belongs to some metropolitan or large city, but it exists independently. ‘Smaller municipalities which are adjacent to a metropolitan area are satellite towns¹.’

A satellite town should not be taken as a suburb. Its distinguished and specific feature is that it has more cultural autonomy than suburban areas with some influences from a larger metropolitan area. Hence, the cultural amenities and attributes make it

¹ Goldfield, David- [Encyclopedia of American Urban History](#).

entirely different from a larger metropolis nearby.

The purposes with which the satellite towns are made include-decongestion, economic subcentralization, optimum utilization of land, protection and conservation



Fig. : Model of Satellite Town

of environment, jobs in small and medium enterprises, financial investment, regional growth and proper resource utilization etc.

In India including all its states, the satellite towns idea is working effectively and successfully.

TYPES OF SATELLITE TOWNS

Across the world there are various types of satellite towns characterized by their specific geographic and socio-cultural features. Following are the types of the satellite towns -

- Garden city located in green belt
- Independent new towns situated far from the large city
- Satellite town with a close resemblance to a satellite around a planet
- Bedroom city where live daily commuters to the main city
- Twin new city with as important roles as the old cities

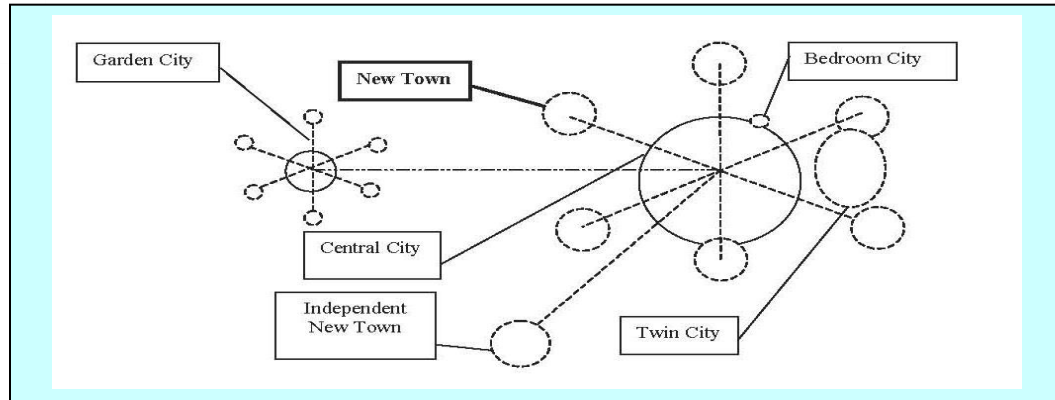


Fig. : Type of Satellite Town

(Source:-XuewenTan, 2010)

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SATELLITE TOWNS

Ebenzer Howard (Howard, 1896) was a pioneer to introduce the world with notion of satellite towns. The Satellite Town Act, 1947, encouraged their emergence globally. The satellite towns concept refers to decongestion of the over-crowdedness of large cities in the nearby smaller ones that remain independent from the main city and that can provide required urban facilities to their population. The global new towns are characterized by the following features-

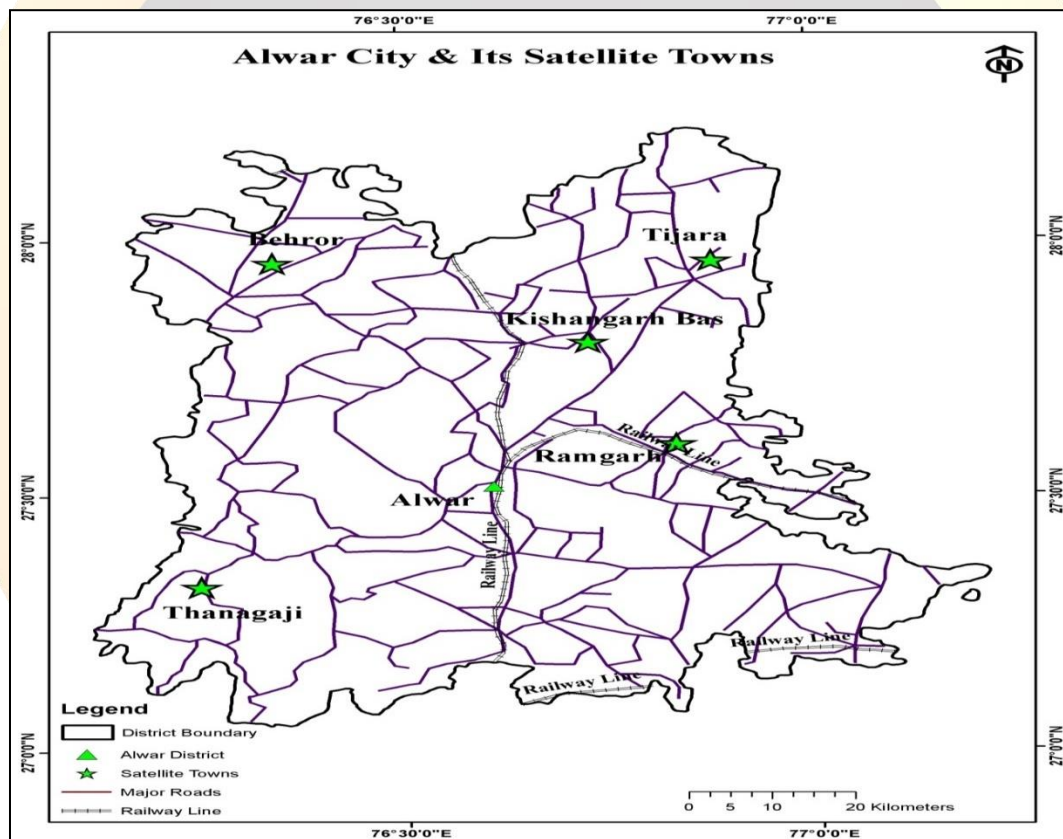
- The satellite towns are concerned with all those countries that have a high population-land proportion.
- Every satellite town relates to some large city which needs several satellite towns for its development.
- The pattern of satellite towns is spreading from highly urbanized countries to newly industrialized and then to developing countries.

STUDY AREA

The study area selected for the research work was the Alwar district in Rajasthan which was taken as the main city and Tizara, Bahrer, Ramgarh, Thana Gazi and Kisangarh which were taken as the satellite towns of Alwar.

As in other states of India, in Rajasthan too urbanization is running fast, and is attracting the rural folk towards the cities having modern attractions, educational facilities, employment security etc.

The Government of India, under the Sixth Five Year Plane, made provisions for small towns in vicinity of large cities with a specific purpose to reduce population pressure or population explosion in such large cities. Considering all these things, NCR got conceptualized in which entire Alwar district of Rajasthan was included. Consequently, rapid urbanization took place in whole Alwar district, but this process of urbanization could not spread evenly; rather, it became concentrated at few centres.



Map: Alwar city and its satellite towns

Obviously, the Alwar district which falls in NCR and which is a route to the Jaipur, and New Delhi, is developing faster than many other districts of NCR. Being equidistant from both these major cities, Alwar is now the mother city having an encouraged development.

Alwar district has seen much economic growth because of the interest of the various governments. Its geographical location and the possibilities of development attract the various countries to contribute to its beautification, physical systematization and development.

The parks designed after the industrial parks developed by Japan and Korea, Special -Economic Zones (SEZ), Rapid Rail Corridor etc. have opened several new vistas. The contribution of these initiatives to the town-progress in Alwar district is so immense.

The rising graph of the number of urban centres tell the story of the socio-economic growth of Alwar district. With its constant growth, Alwar is now a leading district of Rajasthan where there seems much possibility of growth and development.

In 1991, there were 9 urban centres in Alwar district. Their number rose to 16 in 2011. Just in about ten years such a tremendous progress was noted. 2011 Census report says that Alwar district has total population 3674179 which is 8.13% of the NCR population.

The population of Alwar city is 6,54,451 which is 17.81% of the district population. This figure is quite enthusiastic and makes one believe that the urban district population which includes the town-population in the various parts of the district, is increasing seeking employment through the various sources. It also allows the sociologists, demographers, geographers and economists to study the issue with their own perspectives.

The decadal growth in urban population is 50.50% in Alwar district during 2001-2011. District holds top position among all district of state regarding urban population growth between 2001 and 2011. Hence, to reduce the burden of likely future problems associated with urbanization like population and pressure on infrastructure, it is needed to develop a few other towns.

MAJOR URBAN CENTRES IN ALWAR DISTRICT

Tizara, Bahrar, Ramgarh, Thana Gazi and Kisangarh Bas form urban centres or the satellite towns of Alwar. The regional growth of district rests upon them. The more planned and developed they are, the more developed the district will be. Each of them is now a serious concern for the Government of Rajasthan.

The Rajasthan Government considers them while launching any plan or economic or social policy. These urban centres in Alwar district may help the district see and attain new horizons of planning. They are independent, still their relationship with Alwar city cannot be ignored and set aside while discussing the major issues.

MAJOR ISSUES

The Alwar district has the following important issues to be discussed and sorted out in terms of the satellite towns-

- The ongoing process of urbanization which is forcing the rural population of the district and neighbor districts and states to settle in Alwar for the sake of family settlement, employment, education, modernity
- Increase of population at a tremendous rate and population density
- Urban sprawl brings the arrivals to settle down beyond the main city
- Stress on infrastructure which is unable to manage population sufficiently and to facilitate living and employment
- Traffic congestion which causes unnecessary air and sound pollution and accidents
- Emergence of unplanned areas where the regulations of town planning are violated
- Emergence of slums where the people living below poverty line are forced to live in unhealthy environment with their families
- Scattered settlements which force them for insecure living
- Environmental degradation through various forms of pollution

Alwar city is a great attraction to the people of nearby villages, towns and states. It is considered to have better opportunities to the people. No doubt, Alwar is a developed

centre, but its towns need to be developed and replanned for the sake of providing better living to the people. Since Alwar has job-opportunities and other required facilities, migration rate in Alwar from the other areas of the district and even other neighbouring districts is going to be high.

Through the proper development of its satellite towns, Alwar district can make a tremendous contribution to Rajasthan and to the country at large. In terms of resources Alwar is a great district of Rajasthan which is clear from its selection for NCR. There is much possibility here. What is needed most is the reshaping of the entire urban area through proper town planning so that the density of population in Alwar may be controlled and new employment opportunities may be created.

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