Functional classification of Indian Urban Places — Asok Mitra

- Main source of data on economic activities of urban places is Indian census
- The classification of workers in census closely corresponds to standard Industrial classification of workers at the first-digit level - The categories are -

I Cultivation
II Agricultural labour
III Mining, Quarrying
IV House hold industries
V Manufacturing
VI Construction
VII Trade and commerce
VIII Transport and communication
IX Services

- The census industrial categories forms the basis for a functional classification of Urban places
- The term function in fact relate to economic activity of a town
- While every town has some workers

engaged in each of industrial categories, the proportion or percentage of workers in one industrial category may be greater than in other - This category represents dominant function of a town

- Originally it was considered appropriate to classify urban places on the basis of their dominant function. This approach however involved several limitations

a) it tends to ignore the presence of other activity in the city

b) number of workers is not always the best measure of the importance of an economic activity

c) do not fully reveal the role of the city within the economy of the region.

- The functional classn :. is now based on multiple function approach

- In this approach, a town could specialize in one or more functions and the degree of specialization is determined by number of workers in a town.

Indian cities classification of function basis have been attempted by –

- Amrut Lal (1951 Census data based)
- Qazi Ahmed (1961 census data based)
- Asok Mitra (1961 - 1971 census data based)

⇒ from among them Asok Mitra's classification is most followed.

Asok Mitra, former Registrar General of Census and a noted authority on population statistics in India, first groups 7 industrial categories of workers (excluding agricultural sector) into 3 broad groups to derive 3 major function types

A. Manufacturing towns - where percentage of workers in industrial categories of III, IV, V, VI put together is greater than percentage of workers in category VII, VIII or percentage of workers in category IX

- It is further sub categorised as -

a) Mining and quarrying town - where % of workers in III is greater than IV, V, VI considered individually.

b) Artisan towns - where % of workers in IV is greater than in III, V, VI

c) Manufacturing towns - where percentage of workers in V is greater than III, IV, VI

d) Construction towns - where % of workers in VI is greater than III, IV, V

B Trade and Transport towns - where the % of workers in categories VII, VIII together is greater than in category IX or in categories III, IV, V, VI put together. It is further sub categorised as

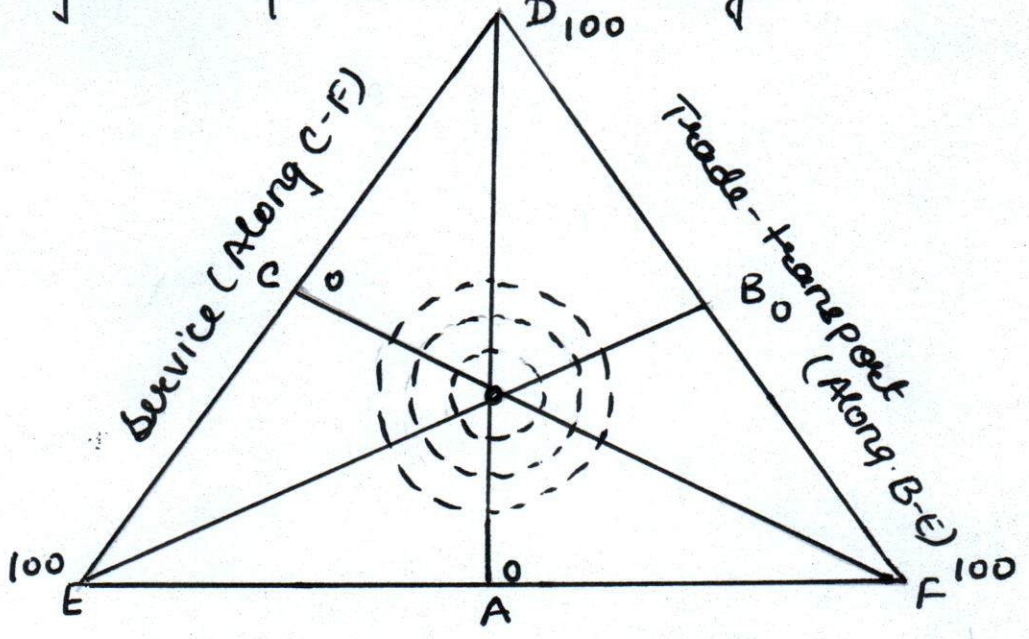
a) Trade towns - where % of workers in VII is greater than VIII

b) Transport towns - where % of workers in VIII is greater than VII

C Service towns - where the percentage of workers in category IX is greater that total percentage of workers in categories III, IV, V, VI or total percentage of workers in categories VII, VIII.

Triangular Method

- In all, seven types of towns were identified The degree of specialisation in each of the three basic groups were identified on the basis of triangular method.
- In this method the number of workers in each of three groups is expressed as percentage of total; thus the values for all three groups would add up to 100.
- The values for the three groups are then plotted on triangular graph, represented by an equilateral triangle



- Thus each town may be plotted as a point within the triangle, where the perpendicular drawn to each of the three sides of the Δ

are directly proportional to the percentage of workers in each of three groups.

- In the centre of triangle, represents a town in which % of workers in each 3 groups is exactly 33 1/2 - such town has no functional specialisation.
- Towns located farther away from centre show increasing tendency of specialisation
- Asok Mitra drew 3 circles at distance units from in centre to differentiate four levels of specialisation.
- The degree of specialisation as

a) Predominant function highly accentuated (PFHA) - outside the outer circle

b) Predominant function accentuated (PFA) - between second and third circles

c) Functions moderately diversified (FMD) between first and second circles

d) Functions highly diversified (FHD) - within the first circle.

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