

Classification of Urban Places - Indian Context

The 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 Household industry
- 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 relates to economic activity of a town. While every town has some workers engaged in each of the industrial categories the proportion or percentage of workers in one industrial category may be greater than in others. This category represents the 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.

- * it tends to ignore the presence of other activities in the city
- * number of workers is not always the best measure of the importance of an economic activity
- * do not fully reveal the role of the city within the economy of the region

The functional classification therefore 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 the number of workers in a town.

Indian cities classification on function basis have been attempted by Amrit Lal (using 1951 census data), Qazi Ahmed (using 1961 census data) and Ashok Mitra (using 1961 and 1971 census data). From among them Functional Classification by Ashok Mitra is most followed.

Ashok Mitra, a former Registrar General of the Census and a noted authority on population statistics in India, first grouped the seven industrial categories of workers (excluding first two categories representing Agricultural sector)

into three broad groups to derive three major functional 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 categories VII, VIII put together or percentage of workers in category IX

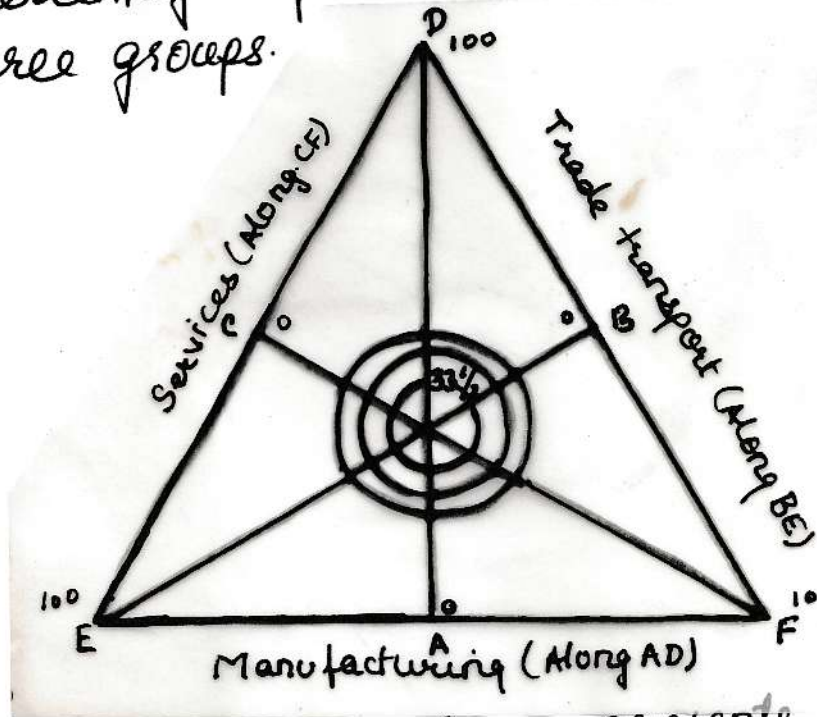
It is further sub categorised as

1. Mining and quarrying towns where the percentage of workers in category III is greater than II, V, VI considered individually.
2. Artisan towns, where the percentage of workers in IV is greater than in III, V or VI
3. Manufacturing towns where percentage of workers in V is greater than III, IV, VI
4. Construction towns where the percentage of workers in VII is greater than III, IV, V

B Trade and Transport towns -

where the percentage of workers in categories VII, VIII together is greater than in category IX or in

equilateral triangle. Thus each town may be plotted as a point within the triangle, where the perpendiculars drawn to each of the three sides of the triangle are directly proportional to the percentage of workers in each of the three groups.



In the centre of the triangle represents a town in which the percentage of workers in each of the three groups is exactly $33\frac{1}{2}$. Such a town has no functional specialisation.

Towns located farther away from the centre show increasing tendency for specialisation.

Ashok Mitra drew three circles at distance units from centre to

to differentiate four levels of specialisation
He designated the degree of specialisation
as follows :-

1. Predominant function highly accentuated - outside the outer circle
i.e. third circle - PEHA is the
applied code
2. Predominant function accentuated -
between the second and third
circles - PFA is applied code
3. Functions moderately diversified -
between first and second circles -
FMD is applied code.
4. Functions highly diversified - within
the first circle - FHD is
applied code

Candidate should not
write anything in the margin