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RURAL GROWTH CENTER IDENTIFICATION USING INDEX METHOD: A STUDY ON RANGPUR UNION, DUMURIAUPAZILA, BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

Rural Center can be compared with the Central Business District (CBD) of the arena. The rural Center performs as Center of economic, social and cultural activities in the rural areas. These are the venues where people exchange their ideas with their neighbors regarding improved methods of production and marketing and also serve as center of recreation. In Bangladesh, rural markets are considered as growth centers. There are about 8000 rural markets (hats & bazaars) in Bangladesh i.e. assembly market, primary market, secondary market & terminal market. But it is difficult to assess contribution of growth center in the areas of trade volume and turn over, employment opportunities and economic upliftment, social services improvement, infrastructure development, place to exchange knowledge on production and marketing and place of social gathering. To ensure that all the growth centers are provided with consistent infrastructure following a standard, a manual titled 'Manual for Growth Center Planning' has been prepared by Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED). The purpose of the study is to identify the present centrality of existing growth centers of 12 no. Rangpur Union of Dumuriaupazila, Khulna. There are various methods to measure the centrality of growth center. The most convenient weighted indexing method is used in the study. For data collection various participatory planning approaches are studied like Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Focus Group Discussion (FGD). Eight service facilities have been selected as criteria and given weight for the calculation of rural centrality score. The selected criteria are education, bazar, health facilities, road quality, administrative facilities, utility facilities, religious center and service coverage of NGOs. After calculation, it has been found that ward no 6 has the highest score of 189. So it has been decided that ward no. 6 is the existing growth center ofRangpur union. From the study problems associated with the existing growth center have been identified which can be useful for further planning of rural growth center of Rangpur union.

KEYWORDS: Focus Group Discussion, Participatory Rural Appraisal, Rural growth center, Weighted Index Method