

## **ABSTRACT**

Periodic markets are the significant socio-economic components in rural space. These markets perform diverse socio-economic functions in most of the rural area of developing countries. Since antiquity rural periodic markets are catering commodities and services to rural people. These markets are one of the service centres in rural India. Uttar Dinajpur District being a rural district, rural periodic markets also plays as service centres to the rural people. Therefore, the present study aims to explore the role of rural periodic market centres in regional economic development. In order to carry out this work the entire study has been divided into ten chapters. The first chapters introduce about the importance of periodic market centres in regional context. Some previous works on periodic market centres has been mentioned in literature review. According to reports of West Bengal State Marketing Board Uttar Dinajpur District has 205 periodic market centres. Almost all these market centres held in rural counterpart of the district. Periodic markets are the points of disposal of firm and craft products scheduled at fixed places at an interval. It helps in integration of peasant economies of rural area to regional economic system. The main essence of this study is to explore the role of these periodic market centres in regional economic development. In order to fulfill the objectives of the study, the study has followed some consistent methodologies. Data sources of this study are from primary and secondary sources. Markets have been selected randomly for 20-30% out of total periodic markets. After selection of rural periodic market centres questionnaires and schedule survey has been conducted for getting information about periodic markets and about its principle participants. Collected data is rectified and tabulated subsequently and applied for statistical, cartographic and G.I.S based thematic mapping techniques. In order to determine the hierarchy of periodic market centres centrality index methodology, devised by Davis is applied. The second chapter gives a description about historical and geographical background of the study area. The district has been bifurcated from erstwhile Dinajpur district of East Pakistan. The district is characterized with flat topography; alluvial loamy soil; monsoonal climate which has created favourable conditions for cultivation of various crops within the district. The principal crops are grown in the districts are rice, wheat, jute, sugarcane, pulses, potato, ginger, chilly which are brought to the periodic market centres for disposal. According to 2011 census the district has a population about 3,007,134 with a population density 958 person/sq.km. The third chapter gives a brief description about the

origin and development of periodic market centres. The study reveals that majority of the rural periodic market centres originated during post-independence time. These market centres came into being existence as a result of internal and external factors. Majority of these periodic markets in the district was originated due to internal demand of exchange of goods of rural people. In addition, incursion of long distant traders has played a role as an external stimulus to the growth and development of these rural periodic market centres. The fourth chapter deals with spatio-temporal aspects of rural periodic market centres. The distribution of rural periodic market centres is random rather than regular in the district. Uttar Dinajpur District has weekly, bi-weekly and tri-weekly periodic market centres. Nature of periodic markets is categorized as ordinary periodic markets and ordinary periodic associated with livestock market. Assemble of traders and consumers are more in ordinary periodic and livestock markets than that of ordinary periodic market centres. As the cattle markets are sparse in the district ordinary periodic and livestock markets are catering services to a larger area. As a result people are willing to visit these market centres from long distance. Morphology and association of shops in periodic market centres are largely controlled by specialization of items, perishability, and durability of items and according to services rendered by traders. An inverse relation in between spatial and temporal distance of periodic markets may create an integrated marketing system. But the district does not follow the same. Majority of the blocks have a converse relation in spatio-temporal arrangement of periodic markets which has resulted a less integrated marketing system within the district. The fifth chapters give an outlook about the behaviour of different types of traders and consumers. Periodic markets are the hub of gathering of different types of participants. Congregation of traders and consumers in periodic market centres are regulated by the functions and services catering by that periodic market centres. There is a perfect correlation in between higher order centres and influential range of periodic markets. The principle actors in periodic markets are broadly categorized as traders, consumers, bystanders and administrators. Traders are generally categorized as producer traders, selling traders, buying traders, service provider on part-time and fulltime basis. Most of the producer traders engage in part time trading. As they are engaged in cultivation of crops and others economic activities on the rest day they are treated as part time traders. On the other hand fulltime traders attend maximum number of periodic markets in comparison to part time traders in a week. The movement of traders differs significantly according to their types and the nature of goods they sell at periodic market centres. The perceptions of consumers to visit the periodic markets vary significantly from

traders. They choose periodic markets according to their own need of consumption. For specialized goods they wish to travel long distances periodic market centres. The sixth chapter deals with the connectivity and accessibility of periodic markets in Uttar Dinajpur District. Connectivity of periodic markets is not up to the mark in the district. In this regard additional linkage to periodic markets may bring some prosperity within the region. Accessibility of different types of participants to periodic markets from Raiganj, Kaliaganj, Dalkhola and Islampur municipality incorporate an additional impetus to urban rural interaction in periodic markets and vice versa. The seventh chapter explains about the role of rural periodic markets in regional economic development. Periodic markets in Uttar Dinajpur District largely vary in terms of services and functions. Periodic markets performing retail cum wholesale functions of commodities play a vital role in regional economic development. These markets are the dispersal centres of commodities to the other centres. Some periodic markets with its collection of local produce only fulfill the requirement of local area performing horizontal exchange in the district. Simultaneously, some periodic markets play as dispersal centres to the higher order periodic markets or urban markets performing vertical exchange system. Some periodic markets are famous in specialized items. Agricultural, horticultural and craft products are supplied from maximum produced area to deficiently produced area through rural periodic market centres. An excellent combination of rural and urban commodities is exposed in rural periodic market centres. Incursion of manufactured items, brought by urban traders in rural periodic market centres has broadened the view of rural consumers. Periodic market centres are also playing as a nucleus of origin and growth for other service centres. Some notable example of clustering of educational institution, health centres, administrative offices, rice mills around these periodic market centres has been observed. So, in total in economic dimension these periodic markets produce jobs, income, decrease poverty and help to crop sell, remove disparity within the district and bringing prosperity of the region as follows. Apart from economic dimension these are centres of cultural decision. The eighth chapter analyze about the problems encountered by traders and consumers during their visit at periodic markets. In this regard problems vary significantly according to traders and consumers. Most of the traders and consumers are facing common inconveniences to reach out periodic market places. The ninth chapter deals with some suggested strategies for bringing further development and prosperity in periodic market places. A controlled supervision on periodic markets may remove the problems, encountered by traders and consumers. Finally the tenth chapter gives a brief conclusion about the study.